

CATHEDRAL OF  
**ST. RAYMOND NONNATUS**

DIOCESE OF  
JOLIET  
CREATED 1948

DEDICATED  
1955

## *Cover Design*

The triangle formed is a symbol of the Holy Trinity and is designed to recall the external operations of the three divine Persons: Creation by the Father, the Incarnation and Redemption by the Son, and Sanctification by the Holy Ghost.


From God came the Church. This fact is symbolized by the sparks of life going to St. Peter's Basilica in Rome. The Holy See created the diocese of Joliet in Illinois, symbolized by the rays of light from St. Peter's to St. Raymond Nonnatus Cathedral. The result — *Te Deum Laudamus!* "Salvation to our God, who sitteth upon the throne and to the Lamb . . . Amen. Benediction and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving, honour and power and strength, to our God, for ever and ever. Amen" — Apoc. 7-10, 12.

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My eternal gratitude for the magnificent cooperation which the priests, religious, and the faithful have given in the organization of this new Diocese. This inspiring generosity has made the task of organizing and administering the Diocese much less difficult than could be anticipated. May God bless all those, both in the Diocese and outside the Diocese, who have helped to fulfill the will of our Holy Father in creating the Diocese.

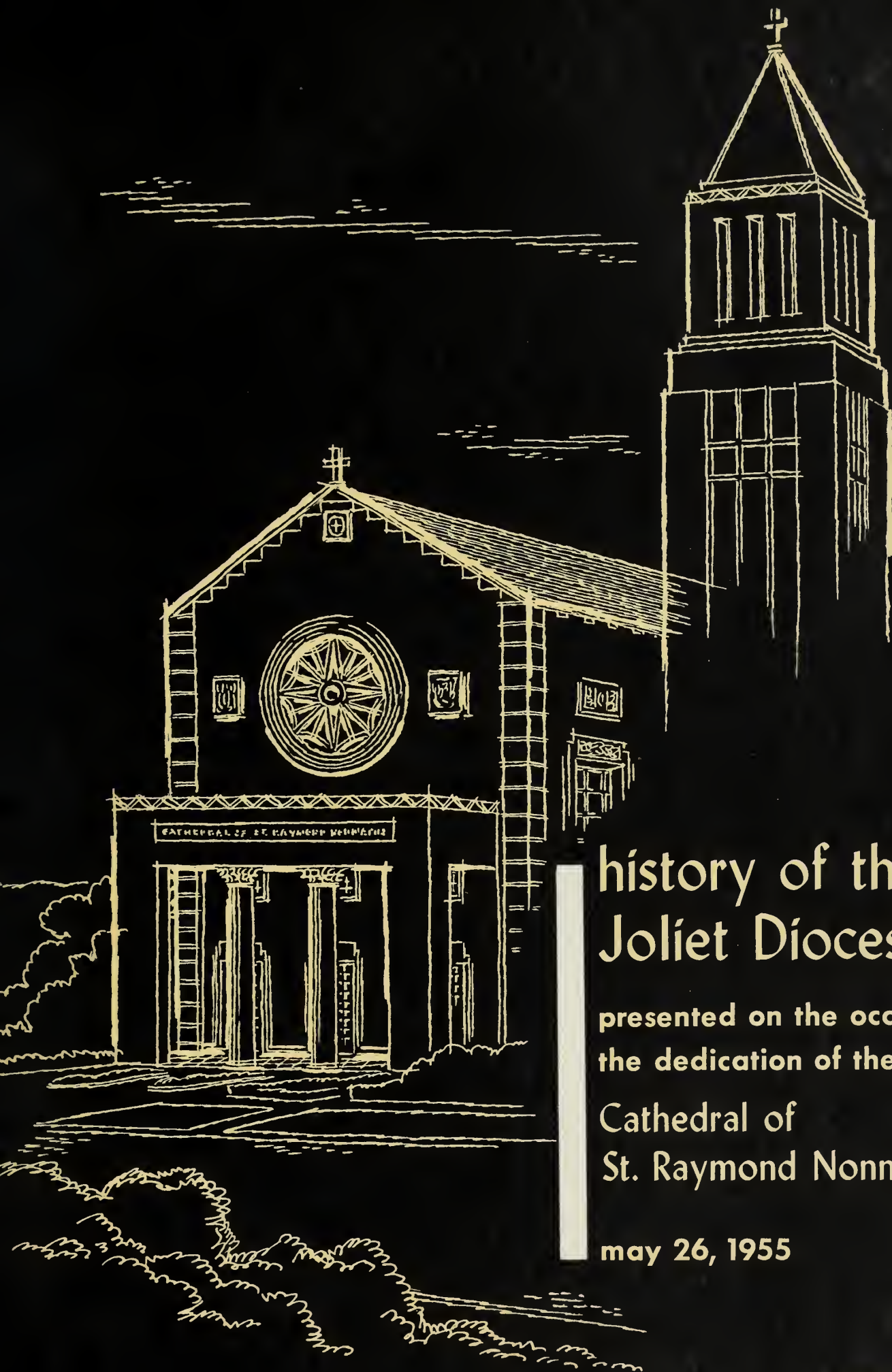
+ Martin L. J. M. L.



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# history of the Joliet Diocese

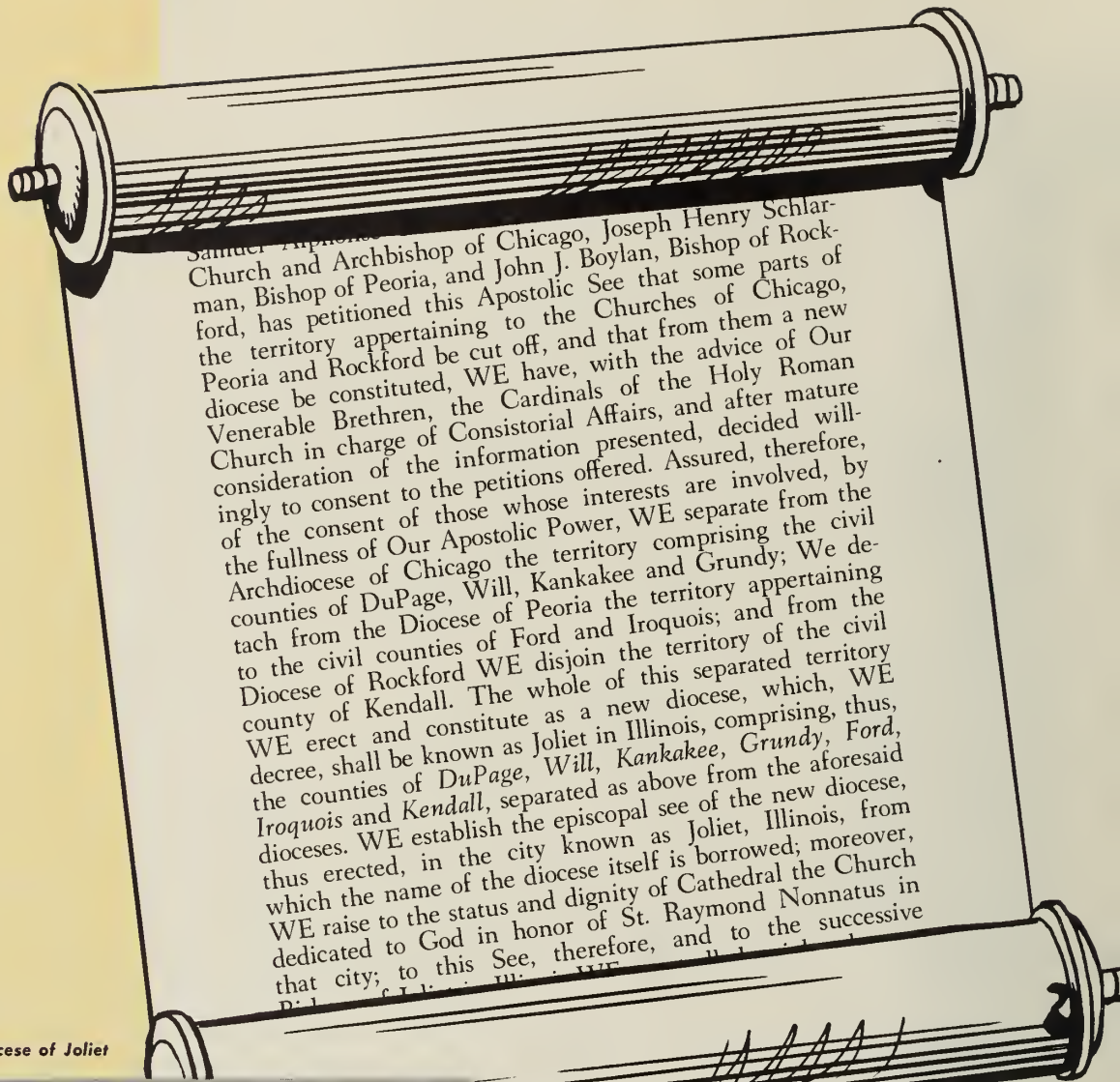
presented on the occasion of  
the dedication of the

Cathedral of  
St. Raymond Nonnatus

may 26, 1955

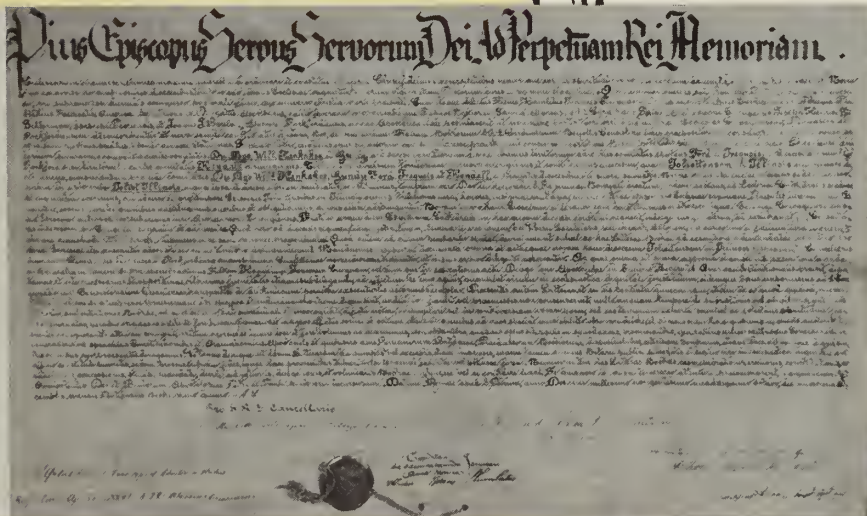


St. Francis Xavier



Samuel Alphonse, Bishop of Chicago, Joseph Henry Schlarman, Bishop of Peoria, and John J. Boylan, Bishop of Rockford, has petitioned this Apostolic See that some parts of the territory appertaining to the Churches of Chicago, Peoria and Rockford be cut off, and that from them a new diocese be constituted, WE have, with the advice of Our Venerable Brethren, the Cardinals of the Holy Roman Church in charge of Consistorial Affairs, and after mature consideration of the information presented, decided willingly to consent to the petitions offered. Assured, therefore, of the consent of those whose interests are involved, by the fullness of Our Apostolic Power, WE separate from the Archdiocese of Chicago the territory comprising the civil counties of DuPage, Will, Kankakee and Grundy; We detach from the Diocese of Peoria the territory appertaining to the civil counties of Ford and Iroquois; and from the Diocese of Rockford WE disjoin the territory of the civil county of Kendall. The whole of this separated territory WE erect and constitute as a new diocese, which, WE decree, shall be known as Joliet in Illinois, comprising, thus, the counties of DuPage, Will, Kankakee, Grundy, Ford, Iroquois and Kendall, separated as above from the aforesaid dioceses. WE establish the episcopal see of the new diocese, thus erected, in the city known as Joliet, Illinois, from which the name of the diocese itself is borrowed; moreover, WE raise to the status and dignity of Cathedral the Church dedicated to God in honor of St. Raymond Nonnatus in that city; to this See, therefore, and to the successive

The Papal Bull creating the Diocese of Joliet



St. Raymond Nonnatus





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L. Historical  
Library



His Holiness Pope Pius XII

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Grand Cornillon Slovenian Catholic Union  
of the United States of America



*His Eminence, Samuel Cardinal Stritch,  
Archbishop of Chicago*

Compliments of —  
Catholic Daughters of America  
Miss Cecelia M. Fox  
State Regent  
Rev. Edward M. Farrell  
State Chaplain



*His Excellency, Archbishop Amleto Cicognani,  
Archbishop of Laodicea, Apostolic Delegate in the  
United States, The Pope's personal representative  
to the United States*

*Compliments of —  
Daughters of Isabella  
of Joliet Diocese  
Miss Margaret Nevill  
State Regent  
Rev. Martin A. Henehan  
State Chaplain*





Rome is the *raison d'être* for every diocese in the world. In the year 1659, the Holy See created the diocese of Quebec to provide for the spiritual care of souls in the territory known then as New France. Illinois was in this territory and consequently became subject to the spiritual jurisdiction of the diocese of Quebec, under which it remained for 130 years. With the Declaration of Independence and the subsequent development of the United States, Joliet and the surrounding territory came under the following respective dioceses: Baltimore 1789-1810, Bardstown 1810-1827, St. Louis 1827-1834, Vincennes 1834-1844, Chicago 1844-1948.

After more than a century under the spiritual jurisdiction of Chicago Archdiocese, on December 11, 1948, by the Apostolic Letters entitled "*Ecclesiarum Circumscriptiones*," His Holiness Pope Pius XII in the 10th year of His pontificate erected the diocese of Joliet in Illinois. The new diocese was canonically erected on March 24, 1949, in a solemn ceremony at St. Raymond Cathedral, Joliet, Illinois. His Eminence, Samuel Cardinal Stritch, presided at this ceremony in which Bishop Martin D. McNamara was formally installed as the first bishop of the new See.

The new diocese was formed from four counties — DuPage, Grundy, Kankakee, and Will — from the Archdiocese of Chicago, two counties — Ford and Iroquois — from the diocese of Peoria, and one county — Kendall — from the diocese of Rockford.



*The Most Reverend Martin D. McNamara, D.D.  
Bishop of Joliet in Illinois*

*Courtesy of Chicago Tribune, Inc*

*Compliments of —  
Wicks Organ Co.  
Highland, Illinois*







*Entrance into Old Cathedral  
for Installation of Bishop*

*I do not pray that thou  
take them out of the world, but  
that thou keep them from evil. Jn. 17, 15.*



*Bishop's entrance for Installation*

*He who enters by the door is Shepherd  
of the Sheep. Jn. 10, 2*



*Actual moment of Installation of His Excellency by Cardinal Samuel Stritch*

*On behalf of Christ we are acting as Ambassadors, God appealing through us. II Cor. 5, 20*  
*According to the Grace of God . . . I laid the foundation, and another builds thereon. I Cor. 3, 10*

*Compliments of —*  
*Beardslee Chandelier Company*  
*Chicago, Illinois*





*The kissing of the Bishop's ring signifies  
their promise of obedience and reverence*

*He who receives you receives me. Mt. 10, 40*

*Reception by the laity*

*If we love one another God abides in us.*

*1 Jn. 4, 12*





*First Sermon by our Bishop*

*For we preach not ourselves, but Jesus Christ  
as Lord, and ourselves as your servants in  
Jesus. II Cor. 4, 5*



*First Blessing of our Bishop*

*Feed my lambs, feed my sheep. Jn. 21, 16-17*



# chancery

*Rev. Roger Kaffer*



*Rt. Rev. Msgr. Romeo Blanchette*

On March 25, 1949, the day after the Diocese of Joliet was formally established, the Chancery Office was opened on the third floor in the Joliet Building at 4 East Clinton Street, Joliet, Illinois. At that time, there were only two rooms available. Hence, Bishop McNamara, Father Romeo Blanchette, the Chancellor, and Miss Mariann Fagan, secretary, had very cramped quarters in which to deal with the public. In spite of the many inconveniences, the organization of the office progressed rapidly and efficiently. The matrimonial court for informal cases was established on the same day. It is reported by the Officials that two individuals presented their cases on the very first day.

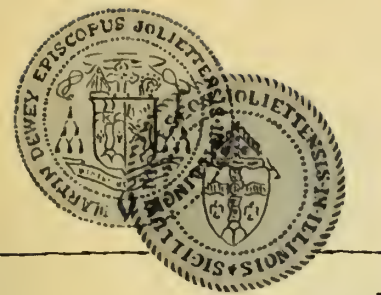
In June, 1949, the Chancery Office moved a few doors away, where four offices and a waiting room were available. In November, 1949, Miss Connie Georgantas, a high school senior, became a part-time worker at the Chancery Office. In June, 1950, she became the bookkeeper on a full-time basis, a position in which she still serves faithfully. As the diocesan expansion program progressed, other employees were needed. Miss Nancy Phillips now is secretary to the Bishop, while Miss Connie Stoneking is secretary to the Chancellor. Miss Jackie Meyer, a high school student, works part-time in a secretarial capacity. In June, 1954, the Reverend Roger Kaffer, newly ordained priest from St. Mary of the Lake Seminary, Mundelein, Illinois, was appointed Notary at the office. On July 1, 1954, the Chancery Office moved to the "Castle," the former residence of the Bishop, at 310 Bridge Street, where six offices and a large waiting room serve as the business headquarters of the Diocese as well as the Diocesan Tribunal.



*Joliet Chancery Office*



*Left to Right—Connie Georgantas  
Jackie Meyer  
Connie Stoneking  
Foreground—Nancy Phillips*



## diocesan curia

Vicar General and Chancellor .....	Rt. Rev. Msgr. Romeo Blanchette, J.C.L., S.T.L.
Notary .....	Rev. Roger L. Kaffer, S.T.L.
Diocesan Delegate for Religious .....	Rev. Alphonse Coan, O.F.M.
Officialis .....	Rt. Rev. Msgr. Romeo Blanchette, J.C.L., S.T.L.
Vice-Officialis .....	Rev. Edward F. Nuzskowski, J.C.B.
Promoter Justitiae .....	Rev. Raymond H. DeMuth
Defender of the Bond .....	Rev. Peter Seidl, S.T.L.
Pro-Synodal Judges .....	Rt. Rev. Msgr. F. R. Stenger, Revs. John Desmond, James Farrell, John Kelly, Daniel Murray, John Podesta
Actuarius .....	Rev. Llyad M. Bowden, S.T.L.
Delegate Judges for Administrative Hearing of Separation Cases .....	Revs. J. Adam, G. Bubnick, J. W. Desmond, J. Podesta
Diocesan Consultors .....	Rt. Rev. Msgr. M. J. Butala, G. M. Cloas, E. J. Cousineau, E. Gottschall, E. V. Hoover, E. J. Luke, E. P. McDonough, F. R. Stenger, E. A. Sweeney
Rural Deans — Ford and Iroquois Counties ..	Rt. Rev. Msgrs. E. A. Sweeney, V.F.; Kankakee and Grundy Counties (except Minooka) — Peter B. Dufault, V.F., Emeritus; E. J. Cousineau, V.F.; DuPage and Kendall Counties — William Plunkett, V.F.; Will County (and Minaaka) — G.M. Cloos, V.F.
Examiners of the Clergy and Pastor Consultants .....	Rt. Rev. Msgr. P. L. Kennedy, Revs. John Kendziora, L. J. Kiley, Joseph Lareau, Gardon Michels
Pontifical Society for the Propagation of the Faith .....	Very Rev. Msgr. J. A. Wagner, Dir.
Catholic Charities .....	Rev. T. J. Holbrook, Dir.
Director of Diocesan Cemeteries .....	Rev. A. J. Sinsky
Diocesan Director of Catholic Cemeteries ..	Kankakee and Grundy Counties: Rev. J. P. McDermott; DuPage and Kendall Counties: Rev. A. Stutzke
Diocesan Superintendent of Schools .....	Very Rev. Msgr. J. A. Wagner
Diocesan School Board .....	Rt. Rev. Msgr. W. J. Plunkett, Chairman, Revs. L. Casey, O.Carm., E. Hoffman, C.S.V., J. P. McDermott, A. Sinsky, Thomas P. Dennehy, Thomas E. Doherty
Diocesan Director of Hospitals .....	Rev. A. J. Rotondi, M.D.
Councilium Vigilantiae .....	Revs. T. B. Dennehy, M. Henehan, M. Kauth, J. F. Nellis
Censores Librorum .....	Rt. Rev. Abbott A. Ondrak, O.S.B., Rt. Rev. Msgr. J. Stoesser
Council of Catholic Women .....	Revs. F. A. McLaughlin, Dir., Fabian Donlan, O.Carm., Francis Corcoran, C.S.V., E. T. Langan, Priest Advisors
Moderator of Theological Conferences ....	Rt. Rev. Msgr. G. M. Cloos, V.F.
Masters of Ceremonies .....	Revs. Llyad Bowden, Wm. Condon, Daniel Murray, T. B. O'Keefe
Diocesan Union of the Holy Name Society ..	Rev. J. F. Kelly, Dir.
Director of Priests' Eucharistic League .....	Rt. Rev. Msgr. F. R. Stenger
Cana Conference .....	Rt. Rev. Msgrs. F. R. Stenger, Dir., E. J. Cousineau; Revs. George Flynn, J. F. Podesta, D. J. Murray, Assts.
Christian Family Movement .....	Rev. J. W. Desmond, Diocesan Chaplain
Confraternity of Christian Doctrine .....	Rev. V. R. Lynch, Dir.
Catholic Youth Organization .....	Revs. T. B. O'Keefe and Joseph Meara, C.S.V., Chaplains; in Elmhurst, Rt. Rev. Msgr. W. J. Plunkett, director
Catholic Boy Scouts .....	Rev. H. Wilkening, Dir., Revs. L. Lenc, F. Revell, Assts.
Catholic Girl Scouts .....	Rev. J. W. Desmond, Chaplain
Pontifical Association of the Holy Childhood .....	Very Rev. Msgr. J. A. Wagner
Te Deum Society .....	Rt. Rev. Msgr. E. J. Cousineau, Maderator
Rural Life Conference .....	Very Rev. Msgr. V. Cloos, Dir.
Apostleship of Prayer .....	Rev. M. Kauth
Director of Joliet Catholic Radio Hour ....	Rev. J. W. Desmond, Dir., J. Shimanek, Asst.
Priests giving conferences to religious ....	Revs. D. Murray, Dir., G. Flynn, F. Golden, F. A. Matasso, G. Moran, S. Mulloy
Bishop's Resettlement Committee .....	Very Rev. Msgr. V. J. Claos



May it please Thee, O Lord, to reward with eternal life all  
those who do good to us for Thy Name's Sake.  
(Roman Breviary)

The esteemed retired  
and  
sick priests of our Diocese

Rev. A. F. Korthals



Rt. Rev. Msgr. P. B. Dufault



Rev. Thomas Shewbridge



Rev. James Nunan

Rev. John Bede Maguire

CHRIST SPEAKS: My son do  
not your feet tremble as you  
are about to approach the  
altar? Indeed you have your  
first zeal and love. Remember  
that you must be as pure as the  
dewdrop lest you violate the  
mysteries of Calvary.



The Deacon answers: Yes,  
Lord, I know I am a sinner.  
Look upon me with Thine eyes  
of mercy and grant to me Thy  
grace. Then it will not be a sin-  
ner but a saint who will ap-  
proach Thy holy altar.

To-day May 26th marks the sixth Anniversary  
of His Excellency, Bishop McNamora's  
first conferring of the Sacred Order of Priesthood.  
The following were the ordinandi:

Rev. Lloyd Bowden

Rev. Vitus Buresch, O.S.B.

Rev. Daniel Kucera, O.S.B.

Rev. Edmund J. Gregory

Rev. Ivan Dobnikar, O.S.B.

Rev. Vladimir Tarasevitch, O.S.B.

The Rev. Deacons will receive the Sacred Order of  
Priesthood on May 30, 1955.



Rev. Paul Pusateri



Rev. Joseph M. Burns



Rev. Leonard J. Guz



Rev. James C. Duffy



Rev. Thomas J.  
Fleming



Rev. William D. Ryan



Rev. George J. Hurley



Rev. Theodore H.  
Berst



Rev. John D.  
Malzone



Parts of the territory of Chicago, Peoria and Rockford dioceses were taken to create the diocese of Joliet in Illinois. The priests, religious and faithful of these three portions of Christ's vineyard were to be formed and united into one new flock. The Shepherd, His Excellency Martin D. McNamara quickly visualized the solution. His voice like a clarion call rang out over the new diocese: "A Cathedral is essential as a stirring symbol of our unity, our faith and our willingness to sacrifice. It will bind all of us . . . people, priests and diocese . . . in an effective group in our service to God."

His Excellency led the fund-raising campaign. People, religious and priests immediately responded. The result — the beautiful monumental St. Raymond Nonnatus Cathedral stands, proclaiming unity, faith, sacrifice and leadership!



When the Holy See erected the Diocese of Joliet, the advancing and progressive city of Joliet joined those cities of the world designated as "Cathedral Towns."

One of the first objectives of Bishop McNamara was to provide the diocese with a

permanent mother-church or cathedral. A cathedral takes its name from the fact that it houses not only the altar of sacrifice but also the "cathedra" or official seat of the Bishop of the diocese.

Bishop McNamara explained to the architects what he felt was needed for his cathedral. Some of his more important requirements were: elimination of any steps from the sidewalk to the entrances, certainly a great convenience for all; numerous and ample exits; one step at the rail for communicants; special soundproof room for mothers with infants; accurate acoustical correction and sound amplification; modern arrangements and conveniences for the general comfort of the congregation; a devotional and spacious sanctuary so arranged that all may see and follow the liturgy; and an interior of dignity suffused with a devotional and religious atmosphere.



The architectural style of the edifice, Neo-classic, was established by the present buildings on the site. The site itself was ideal for a structure of this type, for it was on the highest level in the city with a large expanse of land sufficient to provide room for the edifice and for the modern demand for parking space. The campanile or bell-tower rising to a height of one-hundred ninety feet can be seen as a landmark from great distances in approaching the city from any direction. Inasmuch as the buildings presently on the premises are built of red brick and stone, the cathedral had to follow a similar harmonious pattern.

The plan of the church is that of the true Latin cross. Black granite from Pennsylvania serves as the exterior base course as well as the bulk of the entrance portico. Indiana limestone is the trim used to relieve the red brick exterior walls. The coats-of-arms of the present Pope and the Bishop of the diocese flank the rose window to ornament and characterize the western façade of this church.

In the decorative treatment of the interior, twenty-five varieties of imported marbles have been used to accentuate important features of the room, which at its highest point is seventy feet above the main floor.

The dominant feature is the high altar with its majestic, strikingly colored marble reredos standing thirty-six feet above the sanctuary floor. This reredos, or rear screen, is a simple square niche of Rose Breccia marble framed with a great border of Grand Antique, a black and white marble. In this niche is a black cross to which is attached the figure of the crucified Christ carved from a block of Portuguese onyx, a flesh-colored marble, all in heroic proportion. The canopy over the altar table and tabernacle is a delicately carved work in perforated wood overlaid entirely in gold leaf.

The great of all ceremonies of the Catholic Church, the ancient and colorful ritual of Pontifical High Mass, is celebrated in the sanctuary and requires a background of impressive dignity. The sanctuary, therefore, is large, is noble in its proportions and majestic in its decoration and furnishing.





Cathedral of Saint Raymond Nonnatus

Compliments of —  
McCarthy & Smith  
Architect & Engineers  
Chicago, Illinois

In the transept walls deep marble-lined niches form the recesses for the votive or side altars. In a minor and subordinate form they follow the design of the high altar and are constructed of similar marbles. Marble door frames to the sacristy from the sanctuary form the base for statues of St. Peter and St. Paul. Ten varieties of contrasting marbles subdued in color are used in the design of these votive features.

The entire room is lined with a smooth wainscot of two types of green marble nine feet high. Indenting this wainscot are six niches in which are enshrined statues of the Sacred Heart, of St. Francis Xavier, St. Raymond Nonnatus, the Little Flower, the Cure of Ars, and Saint Pius X. Above the wainscot are set the imported mosaic Stations-of-the-Cross, the delineation of which follows the Beuron School.

An intricate pattern of marble tiles is used to pave the large sanctuary, and the aisles and vestibules are paved with a flint-like tile imported from Maubeuge, France. Woodwork used for the pews, the doors, the sacristy furnishings and the sanctuary furniture is American walnut in the natural finish, a very hard and durable wood.

The windows merit particular attention. Though ordinarily termed "stained glass windows," they have no stain on the glass but are translucent mosaics. They are made up of small pieces of imported antique glass, integrally colored, each piece bedded in lead comes to produce the individual design and graded in color to develop high lights and shadows. Made in Chicago by native artisans, they are undoubtedly the finest examples of this craftsmanship to be found anywhere. The pictorial sequence, starting from the East window in the South transept, illustrates the twelve articles of the Apostles' Creed.

Green being the episcopal color, it was approved by Bishop McNamara as the theme color for decorating the interior walls. Seven shades of green are used to accentuate architectural and structural features of the interior design. The colored coats-of-arms and the use of rose add the necessary variation in color. The underlying thought in the various tones of green was the desire to produce a quiet and restful atmosphere definitely subordinate to the colorful apse or sanctuary to which all attention should be directed.

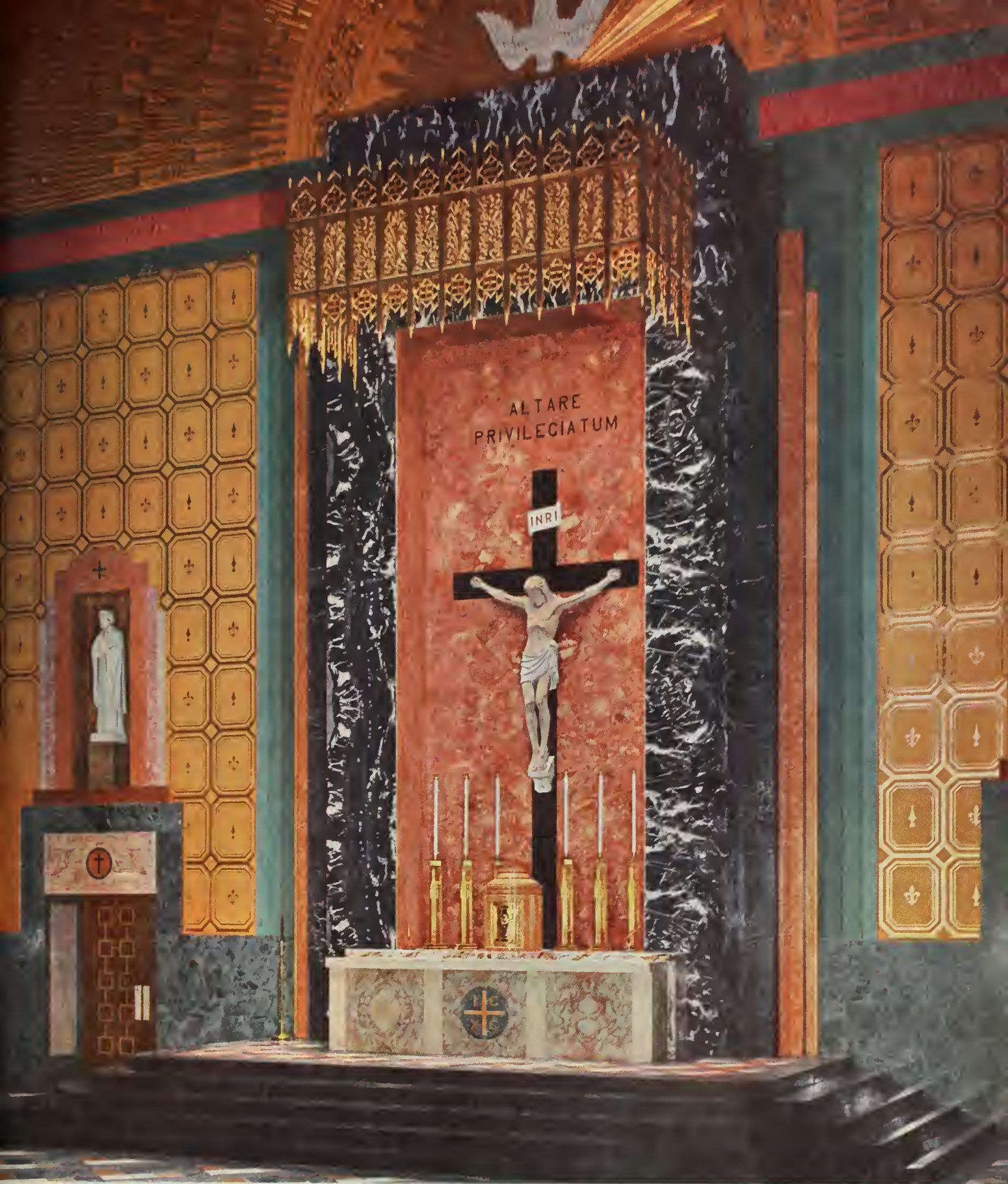


The campanile, or bell-tower separately constructed from the church, supports a chime of three cast bronze bells, the largest of which weighs two tons. These are so mounted that each can be rung by electrical control from the sacristy. By automatic clock, they will sound the Angelus daily. The floodlighted belfry will be a beacon seen at night for many miles. The first two floors of the campanile are intended for use as a library.

This is a solid and permanent structure designed and constructed to last through the ages as all cathedrals in the past have been built. Neighborhoods change, cities go through transitions, but the cathedral stands forever. This is truly a cathedral and it is built on a man-made rock of concrete. "Tu es Petrus et super hanc petram aedificabo Ecclesiam Meam."

Joseph W. McCarthy, A.I.A., K.C.S.G.





Main Altar of the Cathedral of Saint Raymond Nannatus

Courtesy of de Ranieri Studios, Inc., Detroit

Compliments of –  
Gianinni & Hilgart  
Stain Glass & Mosaic  
Chicago, Illinois



## MEMORIAL GIFTS MADE BEFORE March 15, 1955

*Main altar donated by the priests of the Diocese.*

*Mary's altar donated by the students of the Diocese.*

*Altar of St. Joseph donated by Dorothy and Romy Hammes.*

*Bells donated by Mrs. James Murphy and Family in memory of Nicholas Burke Walsh, Mary Scanlon Walsh, Julia Agnes Walsh, James Joseph Murphy, Catherine Loretta Murphy, James Nicholas Murphy, Francis Edward Murphy, Nicholas Walsh Murphy, and Catherine Elizabeth Murphy.*

*Sanctuary Lamp donated by Bessie Driscoll, a memorial to Bessie & Marie Driscoll.*

*Baptismal font donated by Mr. and Mrs. William C. Cunningham.*

*Statue of St. Raymond donated by parishioners of St. Raymond in memory of Fr. Joseph Reilly.*

*Statue of Cure of Ars donated by Mr. and Mrs. Pious Fahrner.*

*Statue of the Little Flower donated by Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Lyons.*

*Statue of St. Pius X donated by Msgr. E. V. Hoover and Mr. J. A. Hoover.*

*Statue of Sacred Heart donated by Rev. William Koch.*

*Statue of St. Joseph donated by Mrs. W. J. Fahrner in memory of Dr. W. J. Fahrner.*

*Statue of St. Francis Xavier donated by Mrs. Frank Colantoni in memory of Mr. Frank Colantoni.*

*Statue of St. Peter donated by Mrs. J. R. Fagan in thanksgiving to St. Joseph.*

*Statue of St. Paul in memory of Patrick and Nora Dennehy, donor, their son, Rev. Thomas Dennehy.*

*First stained glass window donated by Knights of Columbus, Joliet Council.*

*Third stained glass window donated by Mr. and Mrs. Frank Renwick.*

*Tenth stained glass window donated by Martin B. Schuster & daughter Elizabeth.*

*First ornamental window donated by Mr. and Mrs. T. F. Wilhelmi.*

*The Three rose windows donated by Mazzucco Construction Company.*

*Ambry for Sacred Oils donated by John F. Lux and family in memory of Rt. Rev. Msgr. Patrick Brennan.*

*First Station of the Cross donated by Mrs. Edw. F. Gerrity in memory of Edw. F. Gerrity.*

*Second Station donated by Mrs. N. J. Comerford and Miss Lucile Comerford in memory of N. J. Comerford family.*

*Third Station donated by Mr. and Mrs. B. J. Bannon.*

*Fourth Station donated by Mrs. Frank J. Jones in memory of Frank J. Jones.*

*Fifth Station donated by Miss Helen McKeon.*

*Sixth Station donated by Mr. and Mrs. Paul Friedrich and daughter Barbara.*

*Seventh Station donated by Miss Esther Fahrner in memory of Dr. and Mrs. John Fahrner.*

*Eighth Station donated by Mr. and Mrs. Don E. Ryan in memory of Mr. and Mrs. Frank B. Murphy and Mr. and Mrs. Thomas W. Ryan.*

*Ninth Station donated by Miss Helen McKeon in memory of Jos. Boylan and his wife Margaret Ring Boylan.*

*Tenth Station donated by Mr. George Sullivan in memory of Peter and Anna Sullivan and family.*

*Eleventh Station donated by Mr. and Mrs. William C. Cunningham.*

*Twelfth Station donated by Mr. and Mrs. Frank Renwick.*

*Thirteenth Station donated by Mr. and Mrs. John Olha in memory of Mr. and Mrs. Stephen Olha Sr. and family.*

*Fourteenth Station donated by Mr. and Mrs. John E. Schuster.*

*Two prie-dieus donated by Mr. and Mrs. John McNicholas in memory of Honora M. Ryan and Margaret R. McNicholas.*

*One prie-dieu donated by Mrs. John H. McDonald.*

*One prie-dieu donated by Mrs. Joseph Schuster.*

*One prie-dieu — anonymous donation.*

*One candlestick donated by Gerold J. Hahn.*

*One Vigil light stand donated by Mr. and Mrs. Stanley W. Jeriha.*

*Shrine to Our Lady of Fatima donated by Miss Adeline Limacher.*

*Due acknowledgment is hereby given to the many other donors who had no specific memorials.*



*Ceremony of the Blessing of the Bells*

"High above the parish housetops I dwell, in heat and cold, in rain and sunshine, always faithful . . . At dawn, at noon and at evening, with the Angelus I recall the Incarnation and Mary's role . . . At early morn and for Sunday forenoon hours, I summon the parish to the worship of God . . . In the cold night air of Christmas Eve, I call the people to Midnight Mass . . . With peals of Joy, I announce the Resurrection feast and the others to honor the Saviour and those to honor His Mother . . . In tones of happiness, I echo the joys of the bride and groom . . . And when the Angel of Death visits the parish with a doleful voice I toll the news abroad . . . My sturdy, consecrated body I dedicate to the service of God through the months and years, and my tongue I use only to call all men to Him . . . I am the Parish Bell!"



*Blessing of the Bells*





*Father Marquette, S.J. — 1673  
The first priest to bring the Church  
to our territory.*



Father Marquette, S.J. and his companion Joliet in 1673 left the mission of St. Ignace at Sault Ste. Marie, near the present site of the great locks of the Soo between Lakes Superior and Michigan, on an exploratory trip to the Illinois Country. By way of the Des-Plaines River they entered our present day diocesan territory.

Seven years later 1680 Father Ribourde, a Recollect Father, with Tonty and Father Membre, were paddling up the Illinois River between the present day towns of Utica and Morris. The canoe needed repairing. Father Ribourde being eighty years old left the repair work to the two younger men and wandered off from the river bank to recite his Divine Office or breviary. While praying he was killed by a band of roving Kickapoo Indians.

Thus centuries ago the history of our Church began in the territory now known as the Joliet Diocese. Indeed the early missionaries planted and watered, even with their blood, and God gave the growth. It is with genuine joy that the story of the growth is related below and on the following pages.

1948 — Eighty-five diocesan priests, 130 priests from religious orders, 61 religious brothers, and 929 religious sisters, and about 89,424 laity composed the Catholic population of the diocese at the time of its establishment.

There were 72 parishes, 12 missions, 43 Catholic elementary schools, 2 orphanages, 13 Catholic high schools, and 4 Catholic colleges, with a total student enrollment of 12,807.

1955 — One hundred-ten diocesan priests, 169 priests from religious orders, 83 religious brothers, 1203 religious sisters and postulants. The Catholic population is estimated at 122,416. There are 81 parishes and 16 missions. Fifty-seven Catholic elementary schools, 3 orphanages, 12 Catholic high schools, and 4 Catholic colleges have a total student enrollment of 23,197.

## — introduction — to parish histories

*Father Ribourde — 1680  
Proto-martyr of Illinois.*



Compliments of —  
Hugo A. Gold  
Ecclesiastical Financial Planners  
Aurora, Colorado  
San Francisco, California







*Rev. William F. Condon*  
Assistant



*Rev. John S. Kloepper*  
Assistant



*Rt. Rev. Msgr. P. L. Kennedy*  
Pastor

## ST. PATRICK'S JOLIET



The history of St. Patrick's Parish, Joliet, spans a course of more than one hundred years. Through those years there have occurred many important changes, but always the parish has gone forward, a noble tribute to its people and priests.

Joliet was scarcely organized as a village when Bishop Simon Brute of Vincennes, Indiana, appointed as first pastor of the future St. Patrick's, Father John Plunket. Father Plunket arrived in Joliet on November 23, 1838, and immediately began the construction of the first St. Patrick's Church, a project he did not live to see completed.

In 1843, the parish came under the jurisdiction of the new Chicago diocese. In the next three decades the parishioners saw two new buildings added to the church property. A new rectory was completed by Father Walter Power and a school, called Marquette School, was built by Father Patrick Dunne. The Ladies of Loretto taught in the school until 1914, when the Dominican Sisters of Adrian, Michigan,

came to continue the work of instructing the children of St. Patrick's.

In 1919, the location of St. Patrick's was changed from Broadway and Jefferson to its present site on Marion Street. It was at that time that the portion of St. Patrick's north of Western Avenue became the new parish of St. Raymond.

In June, 1917, Father Philip L. Kennedy, originally from County Tipperary, Ireland, was assigned to erect the new St. Patrick's Church, School, and Rectory. The first Mass was offered in the new church on Sunday, March 2, 1919.

Thirty-six years have passed since then, but Father Kennedy, recently elevated to the rank of Domestic Prelate with the title of Right Reverend Monsignor, remains the present pastor of St. Patrick's in Joliet.

Msgr. Kennedy is at the present time assisted by two Jolietans, Rev. John S. Kloepper and Rev. William F. Condon.



*Rev. Michael Mugan*  
Pastor

*Rev. Henry Wilkening*  
Assistant

## **ST. DENNIS** **LOCKPORT**

The first Mass celebrated in St. Dennis Parish was on the first Sunday of May, 1846, in a log cabin church which had been moved from the little settlement of Haytown. Father Dennis Ryan, the first priest ordained in the Diocese of Boston, became the first pastor of this little parish and remained until his death in 1852.

Until 1872, St. Dennis and its two missions were served by numerous apostolic priests.

In 1872, Rev. Maurice Dorney was named pastor and in 1877 began the building of the present church which was completed two years later.

Dr. James J. McGovern, noted theologian and first native born priest to be ordained in the Chicago Diocese, was appointed pastor in 1880. Under him the parochial school was founded. This school was the first mission of the Sisters of Providence of St. Mary-of-the-Woods in Illinois.

Rev. Francis O'Bryan succeeded to the pastorate on Father McGovern's death in 1914. He remained until 1922 when Father James P. O'Donoghue was named pastor. To him goes credit for building the church hall and rectory. With the financial aid of the Fitzpatrick family, Father O'Donoghue also erected a new school building.

In 1927 Father Charles Murphy assumed the care of St. Dennis flock and remained until 1931 when Father Charles McClellan became pastor.

At the latter's death in 1942, the present pastor, Rev. Michael Mugan, was named to the Parish. He has expanded the school and made Catholic education available to all the children of the parish.

The story of St. Dennis, one of the oldest parishes in Northern Illinois, is the record of the sacrifices of its devoted priests, and the sincere loyalty and devotion of its members.





*Rev. James Storm*  
Assistant



*Rev. Richard Kostelz*  
Assistant



*Rt. Rev. Msgr. Frederick R. Stenger*  
Pastor

## SAINTS PETER AND PAUL NAPERVILLE



Saints Peter and Paul is fondly known as the mother church of Du Page County. It is one hundred and nine years old. In 1846, under the pastorate of Reverend Raphael Rainaldi a small frame church was built with a "lean to" attached, which acted as sacristy and rectory. The first episcopal visitor came on July 13, 1849. Bishop Van de Velde of Chicago examined the spiritual and temporal affairs of the Naperville congregation and found everything in most satisfactory condition. The one room school was opened in 1850.

In 1864, Reverend Peter Fischer became pastor. At this time a new church was built. When one of his successors, Father William De LaParte left the parish there were two hundred and thirty families and a two room parochial school with about one hundred pupils. In 1873, the School Sisters of St. Francis took charge of the school.

During the pastorate of Reverend August Wenker

four classrooms and a hall were built; also a splendid rectory which serves the parish to this day. The school was destroyed by fire and a larger one was built by Reverend Bernard Schuette. The church was completely destroyed by fire on the feast of Pentecost, June 4, 1922. It was replaced by the present magnificent Gothic structure by Father Schuette.

On Palm Sunday, 1946, Reverend Frederick R. Stenger assumed the Pastorate. This year was also the Centennial year of the parish and solemn services were held over a period of one week with Cardinal Stritch and Archbishop O'Brien attending the Centennial Jubilee Mass on Sunday, Sept. 22. The original one room school has now grown to fourteen modern rooms. Land has been purchased for a gym and classrooms to meet the need of future growth. On Dec. 12, 1954 Bishop McNamara honored the parish by investing its pastor with the robes of a Domestic Prelate.



*St. John's School*



*Rev. Quintin Fullom,  
O.F.M.  
Assistant*

*Rev. John Przybylski, O.F.M.  
Assistant*

St. John's Parish had its beginning in November of 1851. The idea was inaugurated by a group of 50 German immigrants who were former members of St. Patrick's Church in Joliet. They had, however, originally come from Bavaria, Alsace-Lorraine, Prussia and the Rhine Province. These brave people made the long ocean voyage and the arduous journey overland with a hope for freedom. They sought a freedom which would let them live and worship as they chose, and they found their dreams fulfilled in the territory which is Joliet.

With hearts filled with gratitude, they began their new lives. The fear and uncertainty was no more. They could now walk in the security of a new land.

For a time they depended on the priests of St. Patrick's for their spiritual needs. But in 1851, they decided to found their own parish. They were encouraged and helped by Rev. J. B. Regal, assistant of St. Patrick's, a German-speaking French-

man. He accompanied them to the new location and organized the parish. Actual work of building a church was begun in the spring of 1852. The cornerstone was laid by the Most Rev. James O. Van de Velde, Bishop of Chicago, on April 18 of the same year.

The church was built in Roman style. It was 40 by 50 feet and it cost over \$180.00. Rev. Casper Mueller was appointed the first resident pastor. His contribution to the growth of this young parish was the purchase of the ground which was the first part of St. John's cemetery.

Father Charles Kulmin was also an outstanding and zealous worker in the early years of St. John's. In 1859 he built the first St. John's parochial school and four years later he asked the Franciscan Sisters to come from Alleghany, New York to take charge of the school. The first Sisters to arrive were Sister Alfreda and Sister Bernarda. They trained the children well and were a great asset to the community. In the





Rev. Gervase Brinkman,  
O.F.M.  
Chaplain  
Illinois State Penitentiary  
at Joliet



Rev. Cloud Billig, O.F.M.  
Pastor



## ST. JOHN'S JOLIET

next year Father Kulmin bought an organ for the church. It was under his direction that the people had their first mission in the parish. It was preached by a Jesuit, Father Francis Xavier Wenniger.

From its foundation until 1865 St. John's Parish was under the direction of secular priests. In that year, it was taken over by the Benedictine Fathers of Chicago. Finally, on Dec. 22, 1876, St. John's parish was entrusted to the care of the Franciscans, and Rev. Gerhard Becker, O.F.M., was appointed its first pastor. He continued to improve the condition of the church, completed the tower, and bought three new bells. They were blessed by the Vicar-General, Rev. Daniel J. Riordan. In 1886, Father Becker built the splendid stone school which took the place of the first one built 26 years before. It contains eight spacious class rooms and a dramatic hall.

The nuns, who teach there, have their residence in the modern convent adjacent to the school building.

The corner stone of the convent was laid on Sunday, April 25, 1948.

The social center for the parishioners is St. John's Parish Hall, which is situated directly opposite St. John's Church. It was dedicated on New Year's Day, 1896. It offers the people many activities, for it houses a large auditorium and stage; it has basket ball facilities, and it also includes the parish kindergarten, choir rehearsal rooms, society meeting rooms, and kitchen facilities.

The Franciscan Community now stationed at St. John's is comprised of eleven priests and one brother. In addition to St. John's Church they also serve St. Joseph's Hospital, Stateville Penitentiary, the College of St. Francis, St. Francis Convent, St. Francis Academy, and churches at Mokena, New Lenox, and Lincoln Estates. The priests presently in charge of St. John's Church are Rev. Cloud Billig, O.F.M., as pastor, Rev. Firmin Weber, O.F.M., an assistant, and Rev. John Przybylski, O.F.M., also an assistant.



*Rt. Rev. Msgr. Edward P. McDonough*

## IMMACULATE CONCEPTION MORRIS

The history of the Catholic Church in Morris provides an interesting cross-section of the development of the Church in this part of Illinois. Catholic feet first trod on Morris' lands over 300 years ago. The first white explorers of this region were Catholic French missionaries and adventurers who burned with the zeal to spread their faith to new horizons. Among these stalwarts were men like Hennepin, Marquette, La Salle, and the namesake of the diocese, Joliet. Soon after Rev. Gabriel de la Ribourde, who had come to preach the faith to savage Kickapoo Indians, found martyrdom at the hands of these same savage Indians in 1680.

The Catholic faith did not return to Grundy County until almost two centuries later when Father Hippolyte du Pontavice established a parish a few miles east of Morris. From what little we know about Father du Pontavice's life, he was a true missionary, zealous for souls and saintly in his life.

To provide for the spiritual needs of the many

Irish settlers who came during the 1840's, Father Patrick Terry established the first church in Morris in the year 1852. Father Terry was a spiritual as well as a physical giant.

Father Terry was succeeded in 1859 by Father Michael Lyons, who was known as the chronicler. His notes in the parish records contain many quaint personal touches which color even the serious religious events in the parish. The present church was built in 1866 by the next pastor, Father Thomas Ryan. During Father Ryan's pastorate, an assistant, Father Peter Corcoran, was procured to care for the outmissions which were attached to the parish.

During the next decade, there were three different pastors at Immaculate Conception parish. After Father J. F. Devine's short pastorate of one year, Father Hugh O'Gara McShane assumed the office of pastor in 1870. Father McShane was a man with rare qualities indeed. He was greatly loved by his parishioners and was respected for his firm stand on controversial





*Immaculate Conception School*

issues such as temperance. His Latin records of the baptisms and marriages of the parish were masterpieces of style and penmanship. So striking was their beauty that it is said they reminded one of those illuminated manuscripts of the Middle Ages. Following Father McShane Father F. W. Smythe was pastor for seven years, from 1874 to 1881.

Father Dennis Hayes succeeded Father Smythe in 1881. Shortly before being replaced by Father John Hemlock, he built the parish residence. In 1889, Father Lawrence Meehan began his fourteen year pastorate. The parochial school, which was built under his direction, is an example of, and at the same time, a tribute to, his zeal and energy. His brother, Father William Meehan, succeeded him in 1901. Equal in energy to his brother, Father William Meehan, Father Meehan rapidly reconstructed the church after a serious fire.

Father J. J. D'Arcy, a scholarly man, was the pastor of the Morris church from 1907 to 1915. With his

diplomatic oratory, he accomplished much towards dispelling religious prejudice. Fathers D. J. Touhy and Thomas B. O'Brien succeeded Father D'Arcy in the office of pastorate. Father Gearty came to Immaculate Conception in 1925, but unfortunately, took ill soon after his assignment and the Servite Fathers discharged the parish duties.

Father James I. McCormick was appointed to the parish in 1928 and remained there until his death in 1936. Rt. Rev. Msgr. Edward P. McDonough, the present pastor, succeeded Father McCormick.

The school, built on Byzantine lines, now has an enrollment of almost two hundred students. The Holy Cross Sisters from St. Mary's, Indiana, have staffed the school ever since its beginning.

We can reasonably expect that the long history of Immaculate Conception parish in Morris will produce Catholics loyal and devoted to their God and to their Country.





*Rev. Paul G. Hutton, C.S.V.  
Pastor*

## **MATERNITY OF THE VIRGIN MARY BOURBONNAIS**

Rich with the accomplishment and tradition of a one hundred seven year history, Maternity Church, Bourbonnais, today looks back reminiscently to the French missionaries who gave it birth as early as 1837, when Father Lalumiere celebrated the first Mass at the home of Noel Le Vasseur, a fur trader. In 1841 the first church, a log chapel, was erected by Bishop Delasailendiere of Vincennes, in whose diocese Bourbonnais was then located. This diminutive structure, dedicated to St. Leo, was a scant thirty by twenty feet.

In 1846 St. Leo's was incorporated into the diocese of Chicago. On April 29 of the following year, Bourbonnais received its first resident pastor, the Rev. Rene Courjault. Father Courjault's first census, taken that September, recorded 77 families, a total of 471 sheep in this new flock.

Father commenced work on a new church in February of 1849, and on June 2, 1850, Bishop Van de Velde, together with the devoted congregation, dedicated the new edifice to the Divine Maternity of the Virgin Mary.

But shortly after the third anniversary of its dedication, tragedy, in the form of a roaring fire, struck Maternity Church and razed it to the ground. But in 1858 the present church building was completed.

The ensuing years saw a steady growth in Bourbonnais' Catholic parish. In 1860 the Sisters of the Congregation of Notre Dame came to the parish. In 1865 the Viatorian Fathers arrived. In 1916, the parish census showed 1,005 souls, more than double the original number.

The present church, built in 1858, was extensively repaired and redecorated prior to the celebration of its Centenary in 1947.

The year 1951 saw the erection of a modern rectory to replace the one of 1870.

The deep Catholicity and sacrificing love of God in the present pastor, the Rev. Paul G. Hutton, C.S.V., and the parishioners of Maternity Church, Bourbonnais, is attested to by the eighteen priests, sixty sisters, and four brothers whose holy vocations it has fostered.



Rev. Stanislaus Gryga  
Assistant

Rev. J. M. Lareau  
Pastor

## ST. JOSEPH'S MANTENO



A century of work. The year 1955 is significant for Bishop McNamara, the Diocese of Joliet, and for St. Joseph's in Manteno. One hundred years ago, in 1855, Manteno became a mission station, and the Holy Sacrifice was offered here by Father Cartuyvels. Of the many scorching summer days of 1855, one will be remembered in particular. On July 2, 1855, the first baptism, that of Marie Labrie, daughter of Joseph Labrie and Marie Brosseau, and the first marriage, that of Albert Robidoux and Aurelie Soulugny, took place at the mission.

Fathers Lapointe, Gingras, and Paradis carried on after Father Cartuyvels. Father Paradis resided in St. George and visited Manteno every third Sunday.

During the pastorate of Fr. Kerston, a beautiful church was constructed, so attractive that it was considered an identifying landmark at the time. All went well for Fathers Goulet, Mevel, and Bergeron, but disaster struck Fr. Chouinard in 1898. In minutes, the work of years was reduced to smouldering ruins.

The landmark was gone.

Nevertheless, the parish was still there, and a place of worship was imperative, so the task of rebuilding fell upon the shoulders of Fr. Bourdeau, who undertook the building of the present church. He later promoted the construction of the first building of Our Lady Academy, and was fortunate in obtaining the Sisters of the Holy Heart of Mary to take charge.

The current pastor, Father J. M. Lareau, assumed spiritual leadership of St. Joseph's in 1937. He is at present assisted by Father Stanislaus Gryga.

As parish life at St. Joseph's developed, Manteno began to furnish laborers for Christ. Born here or living here before they went to the seminary were five priests: Fr. A. L. Labrie, deceased; Fr. J. E. Surprenant C.S.V.; Fr. A. Harte in Chicago; Fr. John Smith, at Rockford, and Fr. Ed Gorman C.S.V. In addition Brother Leslie Henrisey O.S.B. and seventeen young ladies of St. Joseph's Parish have dedicated their lives to the service of God.





*Rt. Rev. Msgr. Peter B. Dufault*  
Pastor Emeritus

*Rt. Rev. Msgr. Emile J. Cousineau*  
Pastor

## ST. ROSE KANKAKEE

### OUR LADY OF FATIMA MISSION

The labors and hardships of heroic priests are inseparably connected with the birth and growth of St. Rose Parish. Early in 1855, Father L. Cartuyvels founded Assumption Parish which was comprised of Kankakee, L'Erable, Saint George, Manteno, Limestone, Irwin, Goodrich, Saint Anne, and Beaverville. He covered his vast new parish on foot or on horseback. Because of its great size, the early pastors found the work very exhausting, and as a consequence, they were not able to continue working for a great length of time. The missionary, Father J. B. Champeau, served from April to October, 1857. He was in turn replaced by Father Epiphane Lapointe. From the moment of his arrival to the present day, the services of this parish, now renamed St. Rose, have never ceased or been interrupted. Next came the Vicar General of Quebec, "Le Grand Vicaire Mailloux",

during whose tenure the Sisters of the Congregation of Notre Dame opened their Academy which still prospers next to St. Rose Church. During the Civil War, Fathers Cote, Langlois, and Marechal ministered to the increasing number of people in Kankakee. On September 13, 1871, Father P. Paradis became pastor, and under him in the same year the present church was started. Bishop Foley dedicated it on June 24, 1877, and had the honor of singing the first Pontifical High Mass in Kankakee.

The second era of the parish history began in 1894 with the arrival of Father Ambrose Granger. For over thirty years his tireless and diligent care brought prosperity to the parish. In 1907, he found it necessary to enlarge the beautiful stone church and add a new sanctuary. New art glass windows were added



Rev. Alfred A. Bergeron  
Assistant

Rev. John Jerbi  
Assistant

Rev. Edward M. Hughes  
Assistant



*St. Rose Kindergarten, Kankakee*



*Our Lady of Fatima Mission*

in 1910. The church stands today unchanged from that time, a stone testimonial to the quality of work these early priests gave to St. Rose. Through the combined efforts of Fathers Paradis and Granger, St. Mary's Hospital came to Kankakee. And finally, under Father Granger, the schools for boys and girls were made free schools with all the expenses borne by the parish. These are the only free schools in the Diocese of Joliet. Although Father Granger suffered a stroke, he continued his work for several more years. In 1924, Cardinal Mundelein accepted his resignation and appointed Father Dufault to the now important French parish of Saint Rose.

With the appointment of this saintly and realistic priest came the "golden age" of the parish. On arrival, he found 1,000 families under his care, the majority of them French. His parish was 27,000 dollars in

debt. More land was needed for a new school, and the church sorely needed redecorating and complete rewiring. By 1927, the new boys' school was a reality, the church had been refurnished, and the parish debt substantially reduced. Further contributions by Father Dufault to the physical growth of his parish were a kindergarten and a new chapel for the Catholics at Kankakee. Under Bishop McNamara he also started Our Lady of Fatima Mission which is taken care of by St. Rose's priests. His material contributions are easily evaluated, but no yardstick can measure the spiritual influence of this holy priest. At long last his health broke, and at his request Bishop McNamara relieved him of his duties in 1954. It is the fervent hope of his successor Msgr. Emile Cousineau, that he will be able to carry on the heroic tradition of his predecessors.





*Rev. George J. Kuzma*  
Pastor

## **ST. ROSE OF LIMA** WILMINGTON

St. Rose of Lima Parish of Wilmington, was in 1844, a mission station. Reverend John Ingoldsby, pastor of St. Patrick's Church, Joliet, visited the mission station each month to celebrate Mass and to care for the needs of the parishioners. In those days, the parish was very small and there was no church. Mass was celebrated in a private home, and each month, a different family was guestmaster for its Eucharistic King.

The site for St. Rose Church was purchased in 1852, and construction began immediately. Everyone was enthusiastic over the project although the finished product would only measure thirty-two by forty-two feet. It took a few years to complete the church, but the people at last had a center for their monthly service which was conducted in English and in German.

The year 1855 is a memorable one for St. Rose Parish, for it was then that Reverend Hyacinth Inthout came as its first resident pastor. Then, as the

years passed, the parish began to increase and soon the original church was too small. A new church was started by Father Lonergan. This new edifice was made of brick and seated five hundred persons. The present church, made of native stone, was started ten years later, in 1881, to meet the demands of an increased congregation.

In 1947, Reverend George W. Moran, pastor of St. Rose, began the construction of a school, which was completed in 1948. At the same time, a piece of property, suitable for a convent, was purchased and remodeled to fit the needs of the Venerable Sisters of Charity of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

Reverend George J. Kuzma replaced Reverend George W. Moran in 1953. As the present Pastor of St. Rose Church, he is studying plans for the One Hundredth Anniversary of the parish to be observed this summer.



*St. John The Baptist Mission*



*Rev. Edward T. Langan  
Pastor*

## **ASSUMPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY ASHKUM**

### **ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST MISSION L'ERABLE**



The Assumption Parish of Ashkum is one of the two parishes in the Joliet Diocese named after the Blessed Mother under the title of Her Assumption. The parish, which includes for the most part rural parishioners, was founded in 1882, but it did not have a resident priest until twenty-one years later. The first pastor was Rev. W. J. Burke of the Peoria Diocese.

The present frame church is the original structure, built when the parish was founded, by the Irish and French Canadian parishioners. Six pastors have served the parish previous to Rev. Edward T. Langan, the present pastor.

Ashkum is also the headquarters of the Pallottine Sisters who are engaged in catechetical instruction in this area. The Sisters drive their own car in order to reach some of the seven hundred grade and high school pupils under their care. This work has been conducted now for ten years. The Motherhouse of the Pallottine Sisters is located in Huntington, W. Va.

St. John the Baptist Parish in L'Erable has been a mission of Ashkum since 1934. It is one of the oldest parishes in the Joliet Diocese. The L'Erable area, near the Iroquois River, was settled by hardy French Canadian immigrants in the early 1850's. The first parish records date from 1856, and the first pastor was Rev. Cyrille Brisard, a Holy Cross Father from Notre Dame. Since his time, about twenty pastors have served the parish.

The present church is eighty years old, and is a beautiful edifice to this day. It is one of the oldest and largest wooden frame churches in Illinois. The present altars and windows were imported from Canada about 1900. The Diamond Jubilee of this great structure was celebrated in 1949, with Bishop McNamara presiding.

Both parishes are living symbols of the strong faith of the French Canadian pioneers who settled the area so many years ago.





*Rev. F. X. Hazen, C.S.V.*  
*Pastor*

*Rev. John J. Ryan, C.S.V.*  
*Assistant*

## **ST. MARY'S BEAVERVILLE**

In 1856 Mr. Charles Arseneau and Mr. David Saindon cleared a plot of ground on which was to be erected the first St. Mary's Church of Beaverville, Illinois. The two men cut down trees and joined them together so that they could be used as uprights and sills for the new church. The parish was organized in 1856 and Mass was offered in different homes and a country store until 1857.

On October 16, 1857, Rev. Epiphaine Lapointe arrived from Canada to take over as pastor of the new church. He solemnly blessed the frame church in December, 1857, and then returned to Canada where he spent fifteen months collecting money to pay for the church at Beaverville.

The first records of St. Mary's Church start with November 15, 1859. The first Baptism recorded was that of Amos Fortin who died in January, 1954, at the age of 95.

The rectory was erected in 1883 by the Rev. L. S. Langlis, C.S.V. The present church, completed in 1911, was erected by the Rev. M. J. Marsile, C.S.V. It is a Greek type of architecture, Ionic exterior, and Corinthian interior. The whole edifice is of well matched Bedford stone. The striking feature of the church is the dome which is 63 feet in diameter and 95 feet above the floor. The three altars are of Italian marble and there is a baldachino over the main altar. St. Mary's Parish has given 28 of its daughters and one of its sons to the service of God.

The present pastor is Rev. F. X. Hazen, C.S.V., and he is assisted by the Rev. J. J. Ryan, C.S.V. From its foundation until the present time, St. Mary's owes its success in large part to the cooperation of its parishioners with the zealous priests who have guided its destination.



*Rev. A. J. Landroche, C.S.V.  
Pastor*

## CHURCH OF ST. GEORGE ST. GEORGE



At the turn of the second half of the nineteenth century, many French Canadian families migrated from the province of Quebec, Canada, and settled in the fertile farmland area just northeast of the city of Kankakee, Illinois. All of these people were staunch Catholics. They brought with them a heritage which was very dear to the hearts of their French ancestors.

When they first settled in this region, which is now called St. George, their spiritual needs were administered to by the pastor of Maternity Church in Bourbonnais. About the year 1858, St. George became an established parish with a resident pastor and has continued as such even to this day.

As was the custom in those days in Canada, especially in farm areas, the new settlement was built around the church and was named after the patron saint of the Church. Thus, around St. George's Parish there quite naturally grew the present town of St. George, Illinois.

The first mission chapel to be built on the present location was completed in 1848. A second wooden

chapel was built in 1854 and a combination chapel in 1858. These two edifices were made possible through the efforts of the missionaries, Rev. L'Abbe Courgeault and Rev. E. Papointe.

The first stone church, which was built in January, 1869, collapsed on the occasion of a severe storm in the following April. Rev. P. Beaudry was Pastor when the present structure was built in 1872 of stone quarried from the Kankakee river bed.

A convent was added in 1889 for the Sisters of St. Joseph from Concordia, Kansas, and they have been teaching the grade school since that time. The Parish hall was completed in 1892 and the rectory in 1897.

The present pastor of St. George parish is the Rev. Arthur J. Landroche, C.S.V.

This Catholic heritage of St. George's parishioners, nourished by faithful priests for nearly a hundred years, has matured into an active, apostolic, interest in the parish and an inherent, reverential love for their faith.





*Rev. Cecil Koop, O.F.M.  
Pastor*



*St. Anthony's Mission*

## **ST. MARY'S MOKENA**

## **ST. ANTHONY'S MISSION LINCOLN ESTATES, FRANKFORT**

The beginning of St. Mary's parish in Mokena goes back to 1864 and its first pastor, Rev. Peter Fassbender, who had only 30 families under his care.

Early benefactors included Mrs. Elizabeth Fliesner Marks and the Enders family, who donated the land for the parish center. An outstanding benefactor of recent years is Mr. George Marti.

Until 1914, the parish was served by the secular clergy, Redemptorist and Benedictine Fathers. In 1914 the Franciscan Fathers took charge and have occupied the pastorate to the present day.

In 1926 a parish hall was erected due to the fine work of Rev. Theodore Wemhoff, O.F.M. In early 1949 this hall was converted into a Catholic school which opened for the first time on September 6 of the same year. This school was started under Rev. Benedict Pfeifer, O.F.M., with Sister M. Charlotte as the first principal. At present, the parish under the

guidance of its pastor, Rev. Cecil Koop, O.F.M., is in the midst of erecting a combination church and school. It is expected to be completed late this year.

Before 1936 Mass was offered in different homes in the vicinity of Frankfort, but on June 7, 1936, Rev. Albert Breuserman, O.F.M., said the first Mass at St. Wilfrid's Chapel, a railroad coach obtained from the Rock Island Railroad by Rev. Roman Hasenstab, O.F.M.

In 1948 a new church was erected under the pastorate of Rev. Benedict Pfeifer, O.F.M. The first Mass in this church, now called St. Anthony's, was offered by Fr. Benedict on Sept. 5, 1948.

The late John Gill and his wife Nora Gill were active benefactors from the early days of this Mission.

At present, the care of St. Anthony's is under Fr. Koop who is also pastor of St. Mary's in Mokena.



*Rev. Wm. Jameson  
Assistant*



*Very Rev. Msgr. Vincent Cloos, Pastor*

## **ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST WINFIELD**



In the year 1967, the Catholics of St. John the Baptist Church will celebrate the centennial of the parish. Before the actual founding of the parish, the immigrant settlers walked miles to attend Mass and to receive the sacraments. When Bishop Duggan of Chicago granted permission for a church to be erected in Winfield, the men themselves hauled stone from the old Naperville quarry. The building was leveled by fire in 1905, but the foundation remains under the present structure erected in 1906.

The Benedictine Fathers served the parish until the ordination of Rev. John Wiederhold in 1869, who then became the first pastor and remained there for his entire priestly life of fifty-two years, until his death on February 6, 1921. The beautiful Gothic Church stands out today as a lasting monument of his faith and vision.

The Rev. Henry M. Franz succeeded to the pastorate of St. John's in 1921. Ever since his pastorate days the famed parish reunions with the serving of country dinners have drawn people to the Summer

Festival. Due to illness Father Franz resigned and was followed by the Rev. Henry A. Puetz in 1936.

Father Puetz was competent with his hands. In his own carpenter shop he made vestment cases and other woodcraft for the parish. He also led his people in the erection of the parish school and auditorium which were dedicated by Cardinal Stritch on June 28, 1942, the occasion of the parish Diamond Jubilee Celebration. Father Puetz died on July 10, 1952, and was laid to rest in the parish cemetery.

The Reverend Vincent J. Cloos was named to succeed Father Puetz. The parishioners met with the pastor to consider the erection of another building, to be known as the Casa Santa. The building relieves the overcrowded living quarters of the Sisters; it provides additional classrooms and meeting quarters for the parish societies. Religious vocations in the parish have prospered too. The pastor, Monsignor Cloos, was designated as a Papal Chamberlain by the Holy Father in August, 1954. He is also diocesan director of the Bishops' Resettlement Committee and of the Catholic Rural Life Conference.





*Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Chapel*



*Standing left to right: Brother Herman Conlon, O. Carm., Brother Albert Dunne, O. Carm., Rev. Martin P. Lee, O. Carm., Rev. Valentine L. Boyle, O. Carm. Sitting left to right: Rev. Nicholas J. Staresinic, O. Carm., Rev. Ambrose F. Casey, O. Carm., Rev. Fabian W. Donlan, O. Carm.*

## **ST. MARY'S CARMELITE JOLIET**

### **OUR LADY OF MT. CARMEL MISSION**

Since its foundation in 1868, St. Mary's Carmelite Church has had three of its former pastors consecrated as bishops: the Rev. P. M. Riordan (1868-1871), later Archbishop of San Francisco; the Rev. Maurice F. Burke (1878-1887), later Bishop of St. Joseph, Mo.; and the Rev. James A. Griffin (1921-1924), later Bishop of Springfield, Ill.

Many of St. Mary's sons and daughters have entered the service of God. The parish has given twelve vocations to the priesthood, five to the brotherhood, and eighty to the sisterhood.

On October 20, 1876, the entire structure of the first church burned to the ground, and Mass was said in Youngs Hall for the next six years. The present church was solemnly blessed in 1882.

In 1886, St. Mary's Grade School was constructed, and property for the present Mt. Olivet Cemetery was obtained. During the years 1911-1916, the con-

struction of St. Bernard's Church commenced, and Mt. Olivet Cemetery was enlarged. Two years later, 1918, Providence High School opened, and Mt. Olivet Cemetery was further enlarged. In 1935, the parish was placed under the guidance of the Carmelite Fathers.

St. Stephen's Chapel was opened in 1937 for Hungarian speaking parishioners. Two years later Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Chapel opened for Spanish speaking parishioners. Construction of a new Mt. Carmel Chapel began in June, 1948. On the last day of the same year, a catastrophe struck St. Stephen's Chapel when a raging fire swept through the small chapel and burnt it to the ground.

St. Mary's Carmelite Church has been served by a long line of devoted priests from its first shepherd, Father P. M. Flanigan, in 1868, to the present pastor, Father Fabian W. Donlan O'Carm.



Rev. T. F. Golden  
Pastor



## ST. PETER'S CLIFTON

St. Peter's Parish is in Iroquois County, some fifteen miles south of Kankakee. A century ago this outpost of Catholicity in Clifton, Illinois, was under the care of the parish at L'Erable. Through this parish, comprised mainly of French settlers lively in the faith of their fathers, the flame of Catholic truth was kept alive in Clifton.

To St. Peter's Parish, where the seed of Catholicity had been planted and nurtured, came Rev. William Kuchenback several years after the end of the Civil War. He was the first resident pastor of this small parish. His first Baptism took place in October of 1869. With genuine zeal he nourished the vineyard under his care and further spread the Word of God.

After Father William Kuchenback there was a steady stream of pastors ever increasing the vineyard entrusted to them by the Lord. The parish passed

from the Diocese of Peoria to the newly formed Diocese of Joliet in 1948.

In 1903 the present church was built. This church is a tribute to the labors of the preceding pastors who served the parish so well. The red brick church harmonizes with the surrounding community. With its dominating height it commands the respect of the rural community of Clifton. The pleasant grounds which surround the church give it an air of majestic triumph. It is a fitting abode for the King who dwells therein. The rectory was built in 1922.

Father F. T. Golden is at present the pastor of this community. He is a successor of the Rev. Paul Runowicz and of Monsignor E. A. Sweeney whose fourteen years spent at St. Peter's will long be remembered. Monsignor Sweeney is now Rural Dean of this area and presently pastor at Watseka.





*Rev. James Dicken*  
Pastor

## **ST. MARY'S MINOOKA**

The history of St. Mary's Parish dates from the advent of the Rock Island Railroad line to Minooka in 1854, which brought about the shift in Catholic population from Dresden to Minooka. Previously Minooka had been regularly visited by Father Plunkett, one of the first missionaries to hold Catholic services in the area.

For several years, the priest was brought from Morris a la handcar. Mass was said at the home of George Comerford. Minooka was considered an out-mission.

In 1864, a decision was made to build a church in the village, and the following year the new church with its towering steeple was completed and dedicated to the Blessed Virgin.

Services were conducted in the church by Father Lyon of Morris until 1869 when the first resident pastor, Father Peter Sheely, was appointed. Two years later, the parish's first Confirmation was administered by Bishop Foley of the Chicago diocese.

One of the most important and interesting pastorates was that of Rev. Joseph McMahon which began in 1892 and lasted for thirty-five years. He had been the pastor for eleven years when his church was struck by lightning and burnt to the ground. Immediately plans were drawn up for rebuilding and in a little over a year, a new church was dedicated by Archbishop James E. Quigley.

A short time later, a new parochial residence was completed and the debt incurred was soon liquidated.

Father McMahon was made the permanent pastor of St. Mary's parish in 1916 and he continued his work there until his death in 1928.

The following pastor, Rev. Armand C. Martin, labored fruitfully for eighteen years. Upon his death the Rev. Gordon Michels shepherded St. Mary's until 1950, when he was succeeded by the Rev. Daniel J. Murray, now pastor of St. Alexander in Villa Park. The Rev. James Dicken succeeded Father Murray as pastor in February of this year.



*Rev. Francis Rausch*  
Pastor



## **ST. JOSEPH'S LOCKPORT**

St. Joseph's Parish was started in the late 1860's when the growing German-American community in Lockport petitioned Bishop Duggan of Chicago for a German-speaking priest. The Bishop sent Father Yuetting to them with permission to start a parish. The first trustees were five very prominent men, all of whom bore the baptismal name of "Joseph." Therefore, the parish was called "St. Joseph's."

Because they were poor, the parishioners built their church with their own hands under the guidance of Father Yuetting. Even the women worked, carrying water for making mortar. The result was a beautiful little church, 34 by 60 feet in size, Gothic in style, on the southeast corner of Fifth and Jefferson Streets. The soundness of their work can be testified to by the church itself which, after eighty-seven years of service, is still a substantial building and which is still being used as the church.

As the parish grew, a rectory was added by Father Hout, its third pastor, and a school-convent building was erected by Father Remigius, O.S.B., in about 1880. The Benedictine Sisters were the first teachers. They taught until 1892 when the Franciscan Sisters of the Sacred Heart from Joliet took over. They have been teaching there ever since. How many young boys and girls have been instructed by them is unknown because of a lack of records, but be assured that the number is large. To reward the Sisters for their long and valuable service, Father Rausch, the present pastor, built a modern school building for them in 1952. Not to be outdone, the good Sisters started a kindergarten class last year.

With this spirit of friendly competition between the Pastor and the Sisters, under the encouraging eye of Bishop McNamara and backed by the generous parishioners, St Joseph's is growing rapidly spiritually and materially.





*Rev. C. J. Biladeau, C.S.V.  
Pastor*

## **ST. ANNE'S ST. ANNE**

In 1859 St. Anne's was a mission attended by a priest from Beaverville. For twenty-two years the people of St Anne's had no church in which to welcome the visiting priest, so Mass was said in private homes. Finally in 1871 Father Michel Letellier was assigned to St Anne's and he began immediately to raise money for a church. Two years later a stone edifice was completed. In 1882 Father U. Martel succeeded Father Lettelier and arranged for the Sisters of the Congregation de Montreal, Canada, to open a school at St. Anne's which was completed in 1884. Shortly afterwards, in 1886, Father Z. P. Berard relieved Father Lettelier and ministered to the parish for forty-six years. Father Berard completed the church only to see it burn to the ground in 1893, after being struck by lightning. He then decided to build a larger church to hold the growing number of parishioners. This church was also destroyed by fire

in 1911. In 1920 fire visited the parish for a third time and reduced the Academy to ashes. The Sisters of the Congregation of Notre Dame decided not to rebuild the school, so they returned to Canada. Father Berard rebuilt the Academy and placed it under the direction of five sisters of the Sister Servants of the Holy Heart of Mary. It was during Father Berard's pastorate that the first pilgrimage was made to St. Anne's in 1886, in place of St. Anne de Beaupré Shrine in Canada. Ever since then annual pilgrimages have been made there. From 1932 five priests have served as pastors at St. Anne Parish, Father E. J. Taillon, Father J. A. Dionne, during whose pastorate the Springfield Dominican Sisters took charge of the Academy, Father A. J. Landroche, C.S.V., Father P. G. Hutton, C.S.V., and Father C. J. Biladeau, C.S.V., the present pastor who received the pastorate of St. Anne's in 1954.



**Rev. George Flynn**  
Pastor



## **IMMACULATE CONCEPTION GILMAN**

The Immaculate Conception Church of Gilman was cared for as a mission from 1865 to 1872. During these seven years it had as mission priests Fathers C. Brassard, C. H. Vanderprel, Jacques Cote and P. Pernin. In 1872, Gilman received its first resident pastor, Father John B. Flanning. On May 12, 1872, the first frame church was dedicated by the Rev. Thomas Quigley. Rev. Englebrecht Blume served as pastor from July, 1873, to August, 1877. Successor to Father Blume was Rev. Frederick Von Schwedler, who instigated the building of the present brick church and rectory. He also completed the Catholic churches located at Crescent City, Watseka and Ashkum.

Rev. M. J. O'Callaghan served as pastor from July, 1890, until September, 1892, when Rev. Thomas J. Finn assumed the pastorate.

The Very Rev. Peter V. Eagan came to Gilman on October 16, 1924. On March 24, 1949, he was one of the eleven priests of the Peoria diocese who became part of the new diocese of Joliet. Shortly before his death in June of the same year, he was appointed Dean of Iroquois and Ford Counties as a merited tribute to his long years of faithful religious service.

Father Vincent B. Lavery was appointed pastor of Gilman in July, 1949. It was during his pastorate that the Eightieth Anniversary of the Immaculate Conception Parish of Gilman was celebrated with a Solemn High Mass in the presence of Bishop McNamara. This joyous day was May 11, 1952.

Father George Flynn, who for nine years served as pastor of the Cabery Catholic church, succeeded Father Lavery on June 4, 1954. Father Flynn presently serves as pastor of Immaculate Conception Parish in Gilman.





*Rt. Rev. Msgr. John P. Stoesser*  
Pastor

## IMMACULATE CONCEPTION KANKAKEE

In December, 1873, a frame church was built, the first church for the faithful of Immaculate Conception Parish. On New Year's morning, 1874, the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass was for the first time celebrated in this new House of God. The priest who said the Mass was Father Bruno, O.S.B.

The first resident pastor, Rev. Gelasius Kuba, was appointed in September, 1874. After his death in August, 1876, there followed a long line of devoted spiritual shepherds.

During the pastorate of Rev. H. Mehring, from 1883 to 1884, the original part of the present rectory was built. Father Mehring was promoted to St. John's Church, Johnsbury, in December, 1884. A hard-working and lovable young priest, Rev. Paul Halbmaier, became the first American born pastor of this parish. He labored in this small section of God's vast vineyard until December, 1887.

In 1891 came a man of action, Rev. Albert Evers. Father Evers established the Mt. Calvary Cemetery and took an active part in the founding of St. Mary's Hospital. During the pastorate of Rev. Fran-

cis Sixt, on December 8, 1900, the old frame church was destroyed by fire but a new stone church soon replaced it.

On November 21, 1903, an eloquent priest, Rev. Christian A. Danz, became pastor of this parish. Father Danz labored at Immaculate Conception Parish for fourteen years until ill health forced him to resign on June 18, 1917. Father Albert Korthals of our diocese, now retired, served as pastor about seven years. On May 10, 1928, Rt. Rev. Msgr. John P. Stoesser, the present guardian of his loyal fold, began his long and devoted pastorate.

The parish school was started in 1867 and for nine years it was staffed by lay teachers. Then the Franciscan Sisters came from Joliet to take over classes. The Sisters of St. Francis of Mary Immaculate have done splendid work in the little school for many years. God will certainly reward the priests, sisters, and parishioners who have established and maintained this church dedicated to the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary, His Mother and ours.



*Rev. John C. Mayer*  
Pastor



## **IMMACULATE CONCEPTION** **BRAIDWOOD**

With the opening of coal mines in this region, and the noticeable increase of the Catholic population, Rev. John McMullen built an out-mission in 1869, in what was then Stewarts Grove. This small building housed the Mother Church of the coal region. The parish founder later became the first Bishop of Davenport, Iowa.

The first resident pastor was Father R. H. McGuire, appointed on March 2, 1875, by Bishop Foley.

In March, 1887, the building burned to the ground. The parish house was moved to the present site, and the following year a new church was completed under Father J. J. Bennett.

As gold is tried by the fire, so was the Immaculate Conception parish, for on September 18, 1911, the church was again consumed by fire, and nothing of the building or contents was saved.

Under Father P. J. Hennessy the present church was built and paid for within a year. It is Gothic style in architecture, with a white stucco exterior. At the dedication, Bishop Quigley was pleasantly surprised at the great generosity of the congregation.

In 1947, the parish house was also destroyed by fire. A new rectory, fireproof in construction and design, was erected in 1949 by Father T. E. Doherty, who also added a new parish hall in 1953. The present pastor is Father J. C. Mayer.

The success which the parish has enjoyed is due to the ardent faith and devotion of its parishioners. They have come to the aid of their pastors after three fires and without complaint have rebuilt the church twice and the rectory once. This combination of zealous priests and loyal parishioners has been the hallmark of Immaculate Conception Parish's success.





*Rt. Rev. Msgr. William J. Plunkett,  
V.F., Pastor*



*Rev. Francis Maher  
Assistant*

## IMMACULATE CONCEPTION ELMHURST

In 1862, the Catholics living in the district now known as Elmhurst petitioned Bishop Duggan of Chicago for a priest to minister to the spiritual needs of the pioneer Catholics of this area. The nearest Catholic Church was St. Mary's, Chicago, and for more than a decade these early settlers had to assemble wherever and whenever they could obtain a traveling missionary.

In response to this appeal the Bishop authorized the Benedictines of St. Joseph's Church, Chicago, to found a mission at Cottage Hill. The purchase in October, 1862, of a half-acre of land at the southeast corner of York and Church Streets provided the site for the first church in the village, a frame building known as the Immaculate Conception Catholic Church. In 1864 the Redemptorists succeeded the Benedictines and cared for the mission over the following twelve years.

The first resident diocesan pastor was the Rev. Charles Becker, who came to the parish in 1876.

The little frame building burned to the ground in November, 1898. This seeming disaster made possible the addition of much needed property on York Street. Within a year the parish had a new church, a rectory, and a one-room school, above which was the convent for the Sisters of St. Agnes. At that time, there were only forty students enrolled in all eight grades combined.

In 1922, the Rev. P. J. Hennessy erected a new building on the southwest corner of York and Arthur Streets which provided additional classrooms for the enrollment of 145 pupils, and an auditorium and assembly rooms for parish activities.

Under the Rev. John Foley, a new home for the sisters was purchased, and in 1928, the construction of the present combination church and elementary school on Arthur Street was begun.

The present pastor, the Rt. Rev. William J. Plunkett, was appointed in 1932 by His Eminence, Cardinal Mundelein, and is the eleventh resident pastor. One of the many notable events during his leader-



*Rev. Frank Dopek  
Assistant*

*Rev. Stanley Orlikiewicz  
Assistant*

*Rev. William Smith  
Assistant*



*Immaculate Conception School*

ship was the opening, in 1935, of the only Catholic co-educational high school in Dupage County.

On April 28, 1946, the first setback to Father Plunkett's plans came in the form of a fire which destroyed the social center. This building had served the high school department and was functioning as a gymnasium, auditorium, and base for the science and music departments and parish organizations. For the next four years the growing high school was forced to function in quarters borrowed from its own crowded grammar school and kindly disposed friends who came to offer whatever meager facilities were available in the vicinity.

A gift from Fred B. Snite, Sr., on Kenilworth Avenue made possible the clearing of a 300-foot frontage on the famed Cottage Hill Avenue as a site for the future high school building. The purchase of twenty-five acres at West Avenue and Alexander Blvd., secured an outdoor recreational center for the children of the parish.

Meantime, Father Plunkett was honored by Pope Pius XII, with the title of Right Reverend Monsignor.

On April 4, 1950, Monsignor Plunkett received the joyous letter from Bishop McNamara, authorizing the construction of the new high school building at 217 Cottage Hill Avenue, and on May 3, 1953, the Bishop dedicated the new school building.

In construction and equipment this twenty-four room structure is a credit, not only to Monsignor Plunkett and his loyal parishioners, but to the entire diocese of Joliet, since it is the only co-educational high school under complete Diocesan control. The present enrollment of 566 students includes 268 from 25 other suburbs of Chicago, proof that Catholic parents see Catholic secondary education as essential in this era of materialism and unbelief. When the proposed gymnasium is completed, Immaculate Conception High School will have no peer in the entire area. The devoted Sisters of St. Agnes staff both the High School and a Grammar School, which enrolls 867 pupils. Associated with Monsignor Plunkett are four assistant priests, Rev. Frank Dopak, Rev. William Smith, Rev. Stanley Orlikiewicz, and Rev. Francis Maher,





*Rev. John F. Kelly*  
Pastor

## ST. JAMES IRWIN

The present St. James Parish is thought to be a direct descendant of an early St. James Church established in 1862. The parish, founded by Rev. Jacques Cote, was located at Pilot Township, Kankakee County. Father Paradis, who succeeded Father Cote, moved the church in 1871 two and one half miles south. Mass was celebrated there only once a month until the Rev. Ambrose Goulet, the first resident pastor, was appointed in September 1877.

In the year 1879, Father Goulet was succeeded by Rev. George S. Kertson, (1879-1890), the Rev. J. E. B. LeVasseur (1890-1894), the Rev. Elzear Therien and Rev. J. C. Simard. The site of the parish was established at Irwin and the present church was built in 1894 under the administration of Father Simard. During the pastorate of Reverend Joseph E. Bourget, appointed in 1895, the present rectory was built. Father (now Monsignor) Dufault, who became

pastor in 1915, added a beautiful school and convent to the parish buildings. The school, originally cared for by the Sisters of the Most Holy Heart of Mary, is now administered by the Dominican Sisters of Springfield, Illinois.

Following the able administration of Monsignor Dufault, the Rev. Wm. Granger became pastor in 1925 and remained in that position until his death in 1949. The Rev. John R. Klaes and the Rev. George Bubnick succeeded Father Granger, and in 1954 the present pastor, the Rev. John F. Kelly, took charge of the parish. Despite the succession of changes in both place and administrators in its earlier history, the parish has been able to settle into a pattern and stability that is productive of a well-established and staffed organization that cares devotedly for the spiritual, social, and temporal well-being of its members.



St. Joseph's Mission



Rev. S. J. Mulloy  
Pastor



## SACRED HEART KINSMAN

## ST. JOSEPH'S MISSION VERONA

The church farthest west in the Joliet Diocese is in the Village of Kinsman, located in the southwest corner of Grundy County.

The parish was first administered as a Mission when, in 1869, a frame church was built not far from the present town.

The first resident pastor was Father J. A. Hemlock, who arrived in 1880. Father Gromley, the next pastor, moved the church into town and since 1885 it has been known as Sacred Heart Church.

In 1889, Father Bruton came to the parish and took on the task of building a grand edifice, with a steeple standing some one hundred feet tall, announcing to all that God was there.

The church, gutted by a fire in 1898 which took all but the walls, was rebuilt under the direction of its pastor, Father Joseph Greene. Father Greene remained in Kinsman until his death in 1913. Father J. J. Byrnes was pastor from 1915 until his death in 1931, when Kinsman was again left without a priest.

Then came Father Joseph O'Donnell, who dutifully served the parish until his death in 1944.

Father Martin A. Henahan responded generously to Cardinal Stritch's request to go to Kinsman. In 1950, Father Henahan received an appointment as pastor of St. Joseph's Church in Bradley from his new superior, Bishop McNamara.

By their sacrifices, the parishioners encouraged Father's choice to repair the old church, rather than tear it down and rebuild. The beautiful renovation and decorating were completed under the supervision of the present pastor, Father Sylvester J. Mulloy.

Kinsman means "kindred who are kind." Surely, the parishioners proved this by their many sacrifices in repairing the church.

Five miles northeast of Kinsman stands the town of Verona. In 1900, it became a Mission of Sacred Heart. This church named after St. Joseph was also remodeled in 1952 under Father Mulloy. At present the two churches are both part of one parish.





*Rev. Joseph Jurkovich  
Pastor*



*St. George Mission*

## **OUR LADY OF LOURDES GIBSON CITY**

## **ST. GEORGE MISSION MELVIN**

Our Lady of Lourdes Parish was organized in 1875 by Father John Fanning, pastor of St. John's Church, Fairbury. He built a frame church of sufficient size to take care of the families in the Gibson City area.

The church remained a mission of Fairbury until 1880 when it was placed under the jurisdiction of the pastor of St. Joseph's in Loda. Father Martin F. Kelly and his successor, Father Louis Heidermann, served the people of Our Lady of Lourdes until 1891 when the parish was blessed with the presence of a permanent resident pastor, Father John P. Barry.

Father Barry moved the church from its original southern location to the north section of the city. He constructed a new church and rectory.

Father Barry had charge of 135 families scattered over a territory of 900 square miles. Twenty-two villages were embraced in this area. The parish home at Gibson City had but twelve families. The follow-

ing towns, once attached to Gibson City, now have their own Catholic churches: Farmer City, Belleflower, Melvin, Roberts, Strawn, and Colfax.

During the pastorate of Father John Fitzgerald, in 1913, the present brick church was erected. At the time of the formation of the Joliet diocese in 1948, Our Lady of Lourdes, formerly the Peoria Diocese, ministered to the spiritual needs of 81 families. The present pastor is the Rev. Joseph Jurkovich who succeeded Father Edmund V. O'Neill in January, 1955.

The church at Melvin, the present frame structure, was built in 1889 by Father John P. Quinn, pastor of Immaculate Conception Church, Gilman, Ill. Melvin remained an outmission of Gilman for two years. In 1891 it was attached to Gibson City, under the pastorate of Father John P. Barry. At this time there were about twenty families in the Melvin outmission. The present number is 37 families and 141 souls.



St. Lawrence O'Toole  
Mission



Rev. John R. Klaes  
Pastor



## ST. MARY'S REDDICK

## ST. LAWRENCE O'TOOLE MISSION ESSEX

St. Mary's Church, Reddick, Illinois, was built in 1899 by the Rev. Dominic Spellman, Pastor of Immaculate Conception Church of Braidwood, Illinois. The parish remained a Mission of Braidwood until 1905 when Reddick was made an independent parish with Rev. F. Caraher as the first resident pastor. About a year after his appointment Father Caraher built the present stately rectory. He was pastor until 1910.

The following are the succeeding pastors of St. Mary's Church: Rev. John B. Murray, 1910-1912; Rev. J. M. Kiley, 1912-1920; Rev. Charles Monahan, 1920-1928; Rev. F. Korthals, 1928-1950. The present pastor, Rev. John R. Klaes, was appointed in September of 1950.

The present Parish Hall, located in the center of the town, has been in use by the church since 1932.

The village of Essex was incorporated in 1880. In the fall of the same year land was acquired from

Mrs. Margaret Lacy for the erection of St. Lawrence O'Toole Catholic Church under the supervision of Rev. M. Zara. While the Church was under construction, Mass was celebrated in the Village Schoolhouse and in the homes of Michael Geelan and Mrs. Lacy.

In 1881 the building of the Church and the rectory were completed by Rev. James F. Clancy who remained pastor until 1885.

Succeeding Father Clancy were: Rev. C. H. Gavin, 1885-1888; Rev. Thomas Quigley, 1888-1893; Rev. Michael Luby, 1893-1894. In 1894 the parish became a Mission of Braidwood under the pastorate of Rev. Dominic Spellman and remained under his jurisdiction until 1905. In 1905 the Essex parish was made a Mission of St. Mary's of Reddick, Illinois.

In 1936 the pastor's home was sold and moved into the country where it still serves as a farmhouse.





*Rev. Francis J. Epstein*  
Pastor



*Rev. James F. Lynch*  
Assistant



*Rev. William Kirk*  
Assistant

## ST. MICHAEL'S WHEATON

St. Michael's parish dates back to 1852. At that time it was only a mission station known as St. Stephens, and was under the able direction of Father Zucker.

Father William De la Porte was appointed the first resident pastor in 1882. A wooden church was dedicated by Archbishop Patrick A. Feehan in the same year. Seven years later, in February, 1889, St. Michael's church was completely destroyed by fire. The present church building was dedicated by Archbishop Feehan in July, 1892. From the lumber of St. Stephen's church, a school building was erected in 1902.

Archbishop James E. Quigley in 1905 conferred on Father De la Porte the title "Permanent Rector" because of St. Michael's total freedom from debt. Father De la Porte celebrated his golden jubilee as a priest in 1916. Three years later he retired and was succeeded by Father Francis J. Epstein, who is presently the pastor.

Throughout Father Epstein's incumbency, St. Michael's has flourished materially and spiritually. A new school was built in 1923. From just a few students, the enrollment has risen now to five hundred. There were three Sisters at the parish's beginning, but with the addition of a new convent in 1938, eight more Sisters have been added. There are also two lay teachers on the staff. The School Sisters of St. Francis have greatly contributed to the parish's spiritual progress. Though not extending over the entire town of Wheaton, the parish now counts more than 3,000 souls among its members.

Father Epstein has had ten zealous priests assisting him through the years. Two of these priests are still with him, Fathers James F. Lynch and William Kirk. In its seventy-three years, St. Michael's has had but two pastors. Totaling the length of time spent by individuals, it has one hundred and ten years of priestly service behind it, and the parish looks forward to serving the spiritual needs of the people with continued solicitude.



*St. Joseph's Mission*



*Rev. John Foster, C.S.V., Pastor*



## **ST. MARTIN MARTINTON**

## **ST. JOSEPH'S MISSION CRESCENT CITY**

The seeds of St. Martin's parish were sown just at the dawn of the twentieth century. Shortly after, there rose up a small church. The faith was vibrant but it was not destined to go untried. In 1903, just three years after the completion of the original church, fire visited it with all its roaring destruction, leaving a pile of ashes as the only visible tribute to the faith of St. Martin's faithful. Immediately this faith asserted itself in constructing another house of worship. But just as it was nearing completion, nature stepped in with a windstorm and wrecked the labors of months. Yet undaunted, the parishioners renewed their work and in 1904, St. Martin's could boast of a church once more. For these past 50 years it has stood against the leafy background of large elm trees, a lasting tribute to those zealous priests and faithful who founded it.

At various times, St. Martin's has been an out-

mission of L'Erable, Watseka and Beaverville. When necessity urged it, there has been a resident priest. The first of these priests was Father August Topin. Father John Foster, C.S.V., is now in charge of St. Martin's and also of St. Joseph's in Crescent City.

St. Joseph's is one of the older churches in the Joliet diocese. The frame church of Crescent City has witnessed the Divine Mysteries within its walls many times, since it traces its existence prior to 1884. St. Joseph's Church stands little affected by the years. But whether one consider the quaintness of its vented steeple or the powerful simplicity of the cross surmounting that steeple, it is the love that its priests and parishioners have for God that has preserved its original beauty.

Although St. Joseph's has always been an out-mission, it has been attached to Hoopeston, Gilman, Watseka and, since 1936, to Martinton.





*Rev. John A. Keating*  
**Pastor**



*Rev. Thomas O'Keefe*  
**Assistant**

## **SACRED HEART** **JOLIET**

Sacred Heart Church of Joliet is located in the south end of the city, one block west of the junction of highways 6 and 66. It was formed from the parish of St. Mary's, Ottawa Street, in July, 1886, with Father A. Goulet as the first pastor. He built the original church, convent, and rectory. A school had been built two years earlier in 1884. This durable structure still serves as the parish school, although it has been modernized in many ways.

Father C. P. Foster followed Father Goulet, taking charge in September, 1888, and continued as pastor until 1905. The parish owes much credit to him, a scholarly priest as well as a capable parish organizer. He went to St. Joseph's parish at Manhattan, in 1905 when that mission was made a parish.

During the pastorate of Father H. G. Van Pelt,

from All Saints Day, 1905, until his death in 1931, the present rectory was built. The church was further improved by the addition of oak pews, steam heat and electric lighting. Steam heat and electricity were also installed in the school. Father Van Pelt endeared himself to all, Protestant and Catholic alike, by his kindly disposition.

The present pastor, Father John A. Keating, took up his duties on Good Friday, 1931. The maintenance of the property has been and still is his main concern. The Rev. Thomas B. O'Keefe is his assistant.

These two devoted priests are aided in the care of their flock by the Dominican Sisters of Adrian, Michigan, who have been teaching in the school since 1914.



Immaculate Conception Mission



Rev. Gerald J. Kerrigan  
Pastor



## ST. PETER'S PIPER CITY

### IMMACULATE CONCEPTION MISSION ROBERTS

In the year 1867 the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass was offered for the first time in Piper City. At that time the spiritual needs of Catholics from Chenoa to Gilman were attended to by Rev. John B. Fanning, D.D. For the next ten years priests from Fairbury said Mass whenever possible in a public hall. It was only when the parish at Chatsworth was organized in 1880 that the faithful of Piper City enjoyed the privilege of hearing Holy Mass regularly each Sunday.

On the site of the present brick church at the northwest corner of Pine and Oak Streets, a small frame structure was erected in 1882. Five years later, the Most Reverend John Lancaster Spaulding, D.D., first Bishop of Peoria, raised Piper City to the rank of parish under the patronage of St. Peter, and he appointed Rev. D. L. Crowe as its first pastor. St. John's in Cullom was made a mission of Piper City.

The present church was erected by Rev. Louis M. O'Connor and, on July 10, 1917, was dedicated by

the Most Reverend Edward M. Dunne, D.D., with some fifty priests in attendance.

Successor to Father O'Connor was Rt. Rev. Aloysius Selva, who for fourteen years served the faithful of this area. Monsignor Selva died at Galesburg, Illinois, on September 13, 1936.

From 1932 to 1954, St. Peter's has seen three pastors: Rev. Charles Williams, now pastor of St. Malachy's Parish, Rantoul; Rev. Basil Doyle, pastor of St. Martin of Tours, Kankakee; and Rev. John Mayer, who now serves as pastor of Immaculate Conception Church in Braidwood. Today the Rev. Gerald J. Kerrigan ministers to the needs of St. Peter's eighty families. Father Kerrigan is the sixteenth of Piper City's distinguished pastors.

Catechetical instruction for the parish's sixty children is ably handled by the School Sisters of St. Francis from Chatsworth. St. Peter's also cares for the old parish of the Immaculate Conception at Roberts, which now numbers twenty-four families.





*Rev. James P. McDermott, Pastor*

## **ASSUMPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY COAL CITY**

The tide of immigration from Catholic countries of Europe, the construction by the Santa Fe R. R. of its road-bed through the town-site and the parallel freight spur of the Chicago & Alton R. R., the opening of seven deep-shaft mines, all these forged the settlement of Coal City between 1870 and 1880 and accounted for its steady growth. By 1888, the community had grown sufficiently to warrant parish status. Father Daniels from St. John's Church, Joliet, and Father Thomas Moreschini of the Chicago Servite Order supplied here till the advent of a permanent pastor. Fr. Daniels offered the Holy Sacrifice in Trotter's Hall on Christmas, 1888. Older parishioners still recall "setting up chairs" for this event.

A petition was sent to Archbishop Feehan to create a parish and send a resident pastor. Rev. P. A. De Paradis was sent in February, 1889; a native of Italy, Fr. De Paradis combined practical sagacity with solid learning. With his own hands he drew the blueprints

of the present church. The church was dedicated on the Feast of the Assumption, 1892, and consecrated to Our Lady under that title.

The parish prospered under Fr. De Paradis' successors. Fr. Aloysius Selva, who was pastor from 1899 to 1904, built the present rectory. Fr. John M. Powen was transferred here in July, 1904, as pastor, and following him came Fr. John J. Reuland.

Fr. James A. Griffin, D.D., Ph.D., took over upon the death of Father Reuland in 1917. Father Griffin endeared himself to the whole community; besides numerous other activities, he was chairman of the Coal City War Savings Club, and the financial Committee of the Red Cross; he directed Citizenship classes; ministered to the sick and the dying during the "Flu" epidemic; directed and publicized parish plays and musicals; and organized societies, especially those devoted to the Young People. His crowning



*Most Rev. James R. Griffin,  
Bishop of Springfield*

*Rt. Rev. Msgr. George Parker*



*Assumption School*

achievement was his building of a parochial school and convent for Coal City. That the parish has had its own school for 35 years is due to the initiative of Father Griffin and the unflagging devotion of the Sisters of St. Joseph.

In June, 1921, Father Griffin assumed the pastorate of St. Mary's Parish in Joliet, and in February, 1924 he was consecrated Bishop of Springfield by Archbishop Mundelein.

Fr. George A. Parker, an alumnus of North American College, Rome, succeeded Bishop Griffin at Coal City in June, 1921. Till the day of his departure in October, 1925, when he was made pastor of St. Felicitas, Chicago, Father Parker endeared himself to his flock and to non-Catholics as well, and his name is remembered and held in benediction in Coal City. Msgr. Parker is presently pastor of St. Phillip Neri Parish in Chicago; is a Diocesan Consultor and was recently

named Prothonotary Apostolic.

Fr. Charles A. McClellan was named pastor in October, 1925, and labored here till July, 1931, when he became pastor of St. Denis in Lockport. Fr. Francis D. Mueller was transferred from assistant at St. Matthias Parish, Chicago, to succeed Father McClellan. A Roman student and capable administrator, Father Mueller performed his duties as a good shepherd among his people until his death on February 23, 1943. The present pastor, Fr. James P. McDermott, was appointed by Samuel Cardinal Stritch and assumed the pastorate on March 21, 1943. He had served at St. William and St. Sabina Parishes in Chicago before Coal City.

To meet the demands of increased enrollment, the Parochial School facilities were expanded with the construction of four additional class-rooms, in late spring of 1954.





*Rev. John F. Kendziora, Pastor*

## ST. MARY'S DOWNERS GROVE

In the year 1890 the grounds located at 4809 Douglas Road were chosen by Rev. F. M. Wojtalewicz as the site for the parish Church of St. Mary. During those early years only 50 families constituted the entire congregation. Through the guidance and labors of the first pastor and his flock, assisted by Divine Providence, a small wooden chapel was erected, large enough to accommodate approximately 60 persons. The next five years saw the building of the parish rectory which is still used today. Passing years brought a gradual influx of population to Downers Grove. The increase meant that a parish school was imperative for providing a firm religious education for the children. In the year 1920 plans were drawn up and the construction of St. Mary's school was begun. It provided two classrooms and living quarters for the Felician Sisters who undertook the task of instruction.

The population continued to increase and with it the necessity for larger facilities. Finally in 1948 Rev. John F. Kendziora, the present pastor of St. Mary's, decided that a new church of permanent durability would be built for his congregation. The new church was completed a year later. However, another problem still faced Fr. Kendziora. The school building could no longer satisfy the needs of the greatly increased population. In the early part of 1954 blueprints were drawn up for the new school while a demolition crew razed the old structure. The new St. Mary's school is composed of ten classrooms, three were designated as living quarters for the Sisters.

At present St. Mary's does not have a convent or rectory. Nevertheless, under the guiding hand of Mary Immaculate and with the zeal of St. Mary's present priest, a convent and rectory will rise to complete the picture another selfless priest imagined so long ago.



*Rev. Eugene Hoffman, C.S.V. Assistant    Rev. John Burke, C.S.V. Assistant    Rev. Francis A. Corcoran, C.S.V. Pastor*



## ST. PATRICK'S KANKAKEE

St. Patrick's Parish began in 1891 when the Catholic Columbian Association assembled, formed a building committee and chose the lot on Indiana and Hickory Streets for the church buildings. Rev. J. J. Darcy was appointed the first pastor in 1892. The following two years heralded the erection of the church. By the year 1905 St. Patrick's flock numbered 105 families. Necessity for a parish school arose from this great increase. Thus, in the years which followed Rev. John T. Bennett rehabilitated the church property, and construction of St. Patrick's Parochial School was begun. In September of 1914 the school opened under the tutelage of the Sisters of Loretto. Three years later Rev. H. M. Shea was appointed pastor. Fr. Shea's pastorate saw the construction of a convent and a high school dedicated in the fall of 1922. Rev. Edward J. McNally succeeded Fr. Shea who was transferred to St. Matthew's, Chicago. Fr. McNally secured state recognition and affiliation for St. Patrick's High School.

In 1931 the Clerics of St. Viator were given charge of St. Patrick's under Rev. William Bergin, C.S.V. Rev. Thomas E. Fitzpatrick, C.S.V., became pastor in 1932 and succeeded in liquidating the remainder of the church debt. He also had the permanent main

altar installed and added equipment to the industrial courses of the high school. He also expanded the school library. A year after his last accomplishment he bade farewell to St. Patrick's after 10 years of fervent dedication.

Rev. James A. Lowney, C.S.V., assumed the strenuous task of renovating the high school for reaffirmation of State affiliation. He accomplished this imperative task successfully and rejoiced with his parish when St. Patrick's celebrated its Golden Jubilee in the year 1943.

In 1944 Rev. Angelo Rinella, C.S.V., the pastor, instituted a building fund for a new rectory. His successor Rev. James Meara, C.S.V., saw the task accomplished. He also instigated repairs on both grade and high schools, and purchased stained glass windows for the church.

The new Catholic high school which will be built in the coming year will retain the name "St. Patrick's" in its title.

Into the capable hands of Rev. Francis Corcoran C.S.V., has passed St. Patrick's glorious tradition and loyal parishioners who will not fail in offering their complete cooperation.





**Rev. T. U. Demarais**  
**Pastor**



**Rev. J. P. Driscoll**  
**Assistant**

In 1872, Rev. M. Lettelier, pastor of St. Anne's traveled monthly by handcar, through the courtesy of the C&EI railroad, to the Mission of Momence.

But traces of public Catholic worship in Momence go back to 1859, when the Rev. E. LaPointe ministered to the little flock, first choosing one home, then another for the locale of his priestly functions. As early as 1860, he proposed to build a stone church but when the Rev. P. Paradis, pastor of St. George Church, was assigned to the Mission of Momence, he decided to erect a frame church instead. This first church was only twenty-six feet wide by thirty feet long and dedicated to St. Patrick.

Father Paradis was in charge from 1862 to 1872, when Father Lettelier ministered to the faithful at Momence. Rev. Joseph LeSage of St. George Church next took care of the mission from 1878 to 1886 when the Rev. Z. P. Berard, also pastor of St. Anne, became

administrator. In 1887 Father Berard replaced the first structure with a larger frame church.

In 1890, the Rev. George Keetson became the first resident pastor. He came out of retirement to serve the Catholics of Momence, and is especially remembered for his zeal in catechizing the young.

The greatest development was witnessed during the pastorate of the Rev. A. L. Labrie (1896-1923), who, besides taking care of the spiritual needs of the flock, built the rectory and was instrumental in bringing to Momence the Sisters Servants of the Holy Heart of Mary, who have built the spacious and beautiful St. Patrick Academy and gymnasium. The Sisters opened their school to the children of the parish and are now teaching the grandchildren of their first pupils. Father Labrie also built the present commodious and artistic church. Mr. Henry Halpin, general contractor for the church back in 1915, was and still is



*Sacred Heart Mission*

## **ST. PATRICK MOMENCE**

### **SACRED HEART MISSION HOPKINS PARK**

one of the parishioners. He has served as trustee for over a generation.

Father Labrie died in 1923 and was succeeded by the Rev. A. L. Girard, who renovated the interior of the church and installed the marble altar, baptistery and other appointments which make it a very beautiful and inspiring edifice.

The Rev. T. U. Demarais was sent to Momence in 1933, and six years later a mission was established in Hopkins Park under his care.

Father Demarais has been ably assisted by the Rev. L. J. Cure (1941-1948), now of St. Angela's in Chicago, and by the Rev. J. F. Kelly (1948-54), the present pastor of St. James at Irwin. The Rev. J. P. Driscoll is assisting Father Demarais at present and is in charge of the Holy Name Society and the youth of the parish.

The Sacred Heart Mission, situated in a rural area thirteen miles southeast of Momence, serves a Negro population who inhabit the woodlands within a ra-

dius of some five miles. It was founded in September, 1939, by Reverend T. U. Demarais, pastor of St. Patrick Church, Momence, with the sanction of the late Archbishop, George Cardinal Mundelein of Chicago.

For the first three years the district school was used as a catechetical center and place of worship. The Sisters Servants of the Holy Heart of Mary have helped Father Demarais and his assistant priests from its inception until now.

In 1941, the generous parishioners of St. Patrick's Church, and others in Momence, pooled time and labor for the erection of the present church, which was dedicated by His Eminence Samuel Cardinal Stritch in 1942. The Congregation of Sacred Heart Mission has grown from three Negro Catholics at the outset to about sixty. There have been over one hundred baptisms. Twenty-five are now being instructed for the reception of Confirmation in the spring of 1955.





**Rt. Rev. Msgr. Mathias Butala**  
Pastor

## **ST. JOSEPH'S JOLIET**

St. Joseph's Parish in Joliet was founded in 1891 by Reverend F. J. Sustersic and forty Slovenian families. The present St. Joseph's Church, built in 1904 by the pioneering Father Sustersic, was the first steel and stone structure in Joliet. St. Joseph's first grade school and its cemetery were opened in 1895. The Rev. John Kranjec was appointed second pastor. He erected the present school and the rectory in 1912.

In the spring of that year Fr. Kranjec died, and the Rev. John Plevnik succeeded him as pastor of St. Joseph's until his death in 1938. Fr. Plevnik purchased the parish hall to give parish organizations a meeting place. He also bought additional cemetery property.

The next pastor was the Rt. Rev. Msgr. M. J. Butala, a native of Joliet, who continues his admirable stewardship to the present day. He had been an assistant at St. Joseph's during the 1920's. Monsignor

Butala's principal contribution to St. Joseph's Parish has been his social and athletic program which included the building of St. Joseph's Park and the payment of the parish debt.

Sister Ferdinand, after whom the parish's Ferdinand Hall is named, was one of the first teachers at St. Joseph's school and spent about forty years instructing the children of this parish. St. Joseph's is thankful to God for its many vocations to the religious life. Forty-two young ladies have entered the convent, the majority entered the Community of St. Francis of Mary Immaculate who teach at St. Joseph's. Also there have been eight boys who have entered the priesthood and four have become brothers.

The parish has many church and fraternal organizations. The Altar and Rosary Society was founded in the same year as the parish, 1891. Ten years later



*Rev. John Ducaji*  
Assistant



*Rev. Roman Malavasic*  
Assistant

the Sodality of the Blessed Virgin Mary for young ladies was begun. St. Agnes Sodality was founded for teenage girls in 1906. For men, the Holy Name Society was begun under Fr. Plevnik in 1919. For the boys and young men of the parish, the Boy Scouts were founded in 1928, and five years later, during the depth of the depression, the Holy Name Juniors were founded for them.

The Slovene Catholic Union, known as the K.S. K.J., was first founded in Joliet, and from there spread across the country. The Slovenians now have seven fraternal lodges in this community. The Slovenian Women's Union, the American Fraternal Union, Foresters, Holy Family Lodge, and the Rosarian Club for Young Mothers are all very well established in St. Joseph's Parish.

The athletic program at St. Joseph's, encouraged by Monsignor Butala has won many championships in

the CYO, the Park Leagues, and the K.S.K.J.

St. Joseph's Parish has grown in every way since its beginning in 1891. Fr. Sustersic laid solid foundations for the faith to build on. There were 40 Slovenian families; now there are 1200. Instead of just one priest for the parish, the pastor now has two assistants, Rev. John Ducaji and Rev. Roman Malavasic.

St. Joseph's is built on valuable property at the edge of a flourishing business district in Joliet. Besides a beautiful church, it has a modern grade school with an enrollment of 463 pupils; a spacious convent; two halls, the parish hall and the park hall, both having gymnasiums; the old school building, Ferdinand Hall; a lighted softball field, playgrounds, and picnic grounds at St. Joseph's Park; and its own parish cemetery. All these attest to the love, sacrifice, and active interest that exists in both priests and parishioners.





*Rev. George J.  
Bubnick, Pastor*

## **SS. MARY AND JOSEPH CHEBANESE**

SS. Mary and Joseph Church is located in Chebanse, Ill., a town of about one thousand population and situated about ten miles south of Kankakee on Routes 54 and 45. The first written record of the parish is that of a baptism administered in June, 1867. However, the parish was organized some years before that. Sunday Masses were offered in the house of William O'Rourke until the first church, a frame building, was built in 1867. The first rectory was built in 1873. The parish at that time numbered one hundred members.

In the seventies the parish of SS. Mary and Joseph came under the diocesan jurisdiction of Peoria. The Reverend J. J. Burke added a tower and enlarged both the church and the rectory. Under the administration of Father O'Dwyer the entire debt of the parish was paid. The present modern church building was constructed under the administration of Father Parker at a cost of fourteen thousand dol-

lars. It is a brick edifice, romanesque in design with a slate roof.

For a few years the parish was served by non-resident priests from Urbana and St. Viator College in Bourbonnais. Fathers Kutter, Zwart, Landreth and Dempsey held short pastorates here in succession from 1932 to 1936, in which year Rev. J. A. Perkins took over and served until August of 1948. Father George Bubnick, the present incumbent became pastor in 1948. This was the last appointment made to Chebanse by the Bishop of Peoria. At the end of 1948, Chebanse became a part of the new diocese. Bishop McNamara was hard pressed to appoint a pastor in Irwin at the death of Father Granger in 1949. This postponed the building of a rectory until May of 1954 when by the ordination of twelve priests the Bishop was again able to appoint a pastor for each parish. In the meantime, Father Bubnick had administered both parishes, with residence at Irwin.



*Rev. Max Warkocki, Pastor*



## **HOLY CROSS** JOLIET

The World's Columbian Exposition closed a great period of courage and inventiveness in Chicago. In Joliet an era of spiritual courage and aggressiveness was just commencing among the Polish immigrants of the "City of Champions." The parish of Holy Cross, Joliet, was founded in September of 1893 by Rev. Casimir Slominski, to minister to the needs of the Polish speaking members of the city of Joliet. Father Slominski was succeeded by such able pastors as Rev. D. Pawlowski, Rev. Francis Jagielski, who built the original church which now serves as the grammar school, Rev. Albert Olszewski, Rev. Ignatius Mazurowski, Rev. Stanley Derengowski, and Rev. Max Warkocki, the present pastor.

Due to the influx of Polish-speaking people into Joliet, Holy Cross was divided in 1927 and St. Thaddeus was formed from the east section of the parish.

The present church property has four buildings on it, the church, the school, the parish house, and the Sisters' convent.

Holy Cross parish is probably one of the few parishes in the United States that can make the proud boast that all of the Catholic Children in the parish who are of grammar school age are attending the parochial school, which is ably staffed by the Felician Sisters.

The great success which the parish has enjoyed since its founding in 1893 can be attributed to the zeal of its pastors and the great cooperation of its parishioners which is seen in the unanimous response that the parishioners have given to the urgent appeal for Catholic school education evident in the decrees of the popes in recent years.





*Rev. Francis A. McLaughlin*  
Pastor



*Rev. F. Revell*  
Assistant

## ST. MARY'S WEST CHICAGO

St. Mary's Parish had its beginning in 1853 as a mission of St. Patrick's in St. Charles. There was no parish church at the time and as a result the Holy Sacrifice was offered in the homes of the parishioners. Held in dear memory are Fathers O'Dwyer, Campbell, Prendergast and Spelman of St. Patrick's who gave themselves unselfishly in order to give Our Blessed Lord to the people.

The Parish in 1871 became adjoined to Holy Cross Parish and it was at that time that the first church was built at St. Mary's. With the unusual stipulation that the church face west, the ground was donated by Dr. J. McConnell, a non-Catholic who realized and put into practice the Divine Charity shown to him by his fellow-townsmen.

St. Mary's was elevated to the position of a parish and was given a resident pastor in the person of Fr. Ambrose Goulet. Immediately, under his swift but sure direction the building of a new church commenced. Too much cannot be said of the evident true

family spirit in which the flock cooperated with Fr. Goulet. Soon the debt was liquidated and a parish house was erected.

In 1898 Fr. John Dore became pastor, followed by Rev. Fathers Read, Gaffney, Heeney, Fennessey, Hartke, Connelly, and the present pastor Fr. Francis A. McLaughlin. In the pastorate of all the beloved shepherds of St. Mary's there was a tremendous amount of work done. In recent years a convent was built, land was purchased and now a new grade school is being built under Fr. McLaughlin's pastorate. He is ably assisted by Father Revell. The school has always been conducted in the customarily admirable manner of the Sisters of St. Joseph, who first came to St. Mary's under the direction of Sister Mary Thomas.

During the years the various societies have been of unfailing help to the pastors and in doing so were likewise their own best benefactors. It is this mutual cooperation that binds us and leads us under Christ's sweet yoke to our destined beginning.



*Rev. Thomas P. O'Brien, C.S.V.  
Pastor*



## **SACRED HEART GOODRICH**

The Catholics of Goodrich and Bonfield were not always blessed with their own church. Priests from Bourbonnais and Kankakee, and even missionaries from Chicago, used to say Mass in private homes, a practice used today in many foreign mission countries. Some of the early settlers had to travel as far as Cabery to make their Easter Duties.

In 1862 the first St. James Church of Irwin was built near Lehigh where the worshippers attended Mass and received the Sacraments. But in 1894, St. James Church was moved to Irwin.

This caused a division in the St. James Parish, so at Goodrich the parishioners built their own church. They had to depend on priests from nearby to say Mass. Within four years of the building of the Sacred Heart Church, Archbishop Feehan appointed the Rev. Joseph Meyer as pastor and director of SS. Peter and Paul's, a German Mission parish.

The Parish Rectory was built in 1899. The parish-

ioners formed and chartered the Mount Hope Catholic Cemetery Association in the same year.

On August 8, 1917, Fr. Meyer celebrated his Silver Jubilee in the Holy Priesthood. But a greater day was to come on July 1, 1924, for Fr. Meyer. He celebrated a double Silver Jubilee: the Silver Jubilee of the church and his own 25th Anniversary as the pastor of Sacred Heart Parish.

On May 29, 1944, after forty-three years of faithful service in the Goodrich Parish, Fr. Meyer died, and is buried in Mt. Calvary Cemetery, Kankakee.

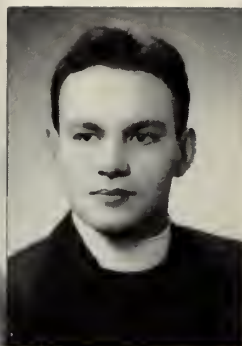
It was necessary for the Viatorian Fathers from Bourbonnais and Kankakee to take care of the parish from 1944 to 1946. In July of 1946 the parish welcomed its second pastor, Fr. Francis Moisant, C.S.V., who was followed two years later by Father E. T. Fitzpatrick, C.S.V. Father Fitzpatrick served from September, 1948, to February, 1949.

The present pastor, Father Thomas P. O'Brien, C.S.V., was appointed on February 6, 1949.





*Rt. Rev. Msgr. Emery Gottschall*  
Pastor



*Rev. George Mickovic*  
Assistant

## **SS. CYRIL AND METHODIUS JOLIET**

In 1900, eleven years after the first Slovak immigrants had settled in Joliet, ground was broken for a new church and rectory on Landau Avenue. On a warm June day, one year later, the cornerstone was laid, and it was decided among the parishioners to dedicate the new church to SS. Cyril and Methodius. The Rev. Aloysius Kollar was the first pastor assigned to this young parish.

Father Kollar's successor, Rev. Paul Hermann, procured property for the church cemetery near Maple Road and, in 1915, Father Stephen Ivicic constructed a ten-room school and a large auditorium, lest he neglect the education of the children under his pastoral care. This new school was staffed by the Benedictine Sisters of nearby Lisle.

On July 20, 1921, Father Emery Gottschall began his long and zealous pastorate. Two years later, he built a new convent.

To foster his parishioners' deep love for their Dolorous Mother, Patroness of the Slovak people, Father Gottschall inaugurated the perpetual novena to Our Sorrowful Mother in 1938.

On June 4, 1950, SS. Cyril and Methodius Parish celebrated its golden jubilee. To honor the occasion, Bishop McNamara was present at the jubilee Mass and special banquet.

In the thirty-third year of his pastorate at St. Cyril's, Rt. Rev. Msgr. Emery Gottschall, who is Consultor to the Bishop, was formally invested with the robes of a domestic prelate by Bishop McNamara.

Commendation must be given to the devoted curates who have so ably assisted Father Gottschall in the past: Revs. John Rondzik, Benedict Mazurek, Joseph Job, Julius Chvojka, Joseph Petro, and at present, Rev. George Mickovic.

St. Cyril's boasts of numerous and varied clubs and parish activities which attest to the genuine zeal and interest of its parishioners.



*Rev. Edward  
Nuskowski, Pastor*



## **ST. JOSEPH'S CABERY**

Cabery is a small community of approximately one hundred families located on the line between Ford and Kankakee Counties.

The present St. Joseph's Catholic Church, located on the Ford side of this border line, is the third Catholic structure to grace the site of highest altitude in Cabery. The first, referred to as "The Little White Church," was erected in 1867. Its churchyard served as a burial ground for the faithful. As the parish grew, this small church became inadequate, and a larger building replaced it.

As the community flourished, St. Joseph's likewise expanded, and in 1903 the construction of the present church commenced under the direction of the Rev. F. M. Eckert. Upon completion during the autumn of 1904, it was solemnly dedicated and blessed by Bishop Spaulding.

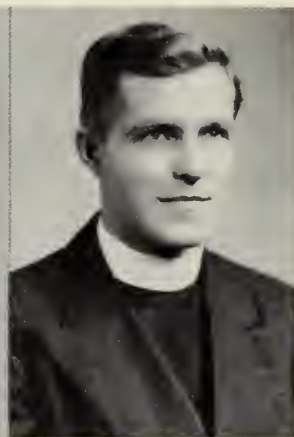
St. Joseph's church, Roman style architecture, has a seating capacity of three hundred. Its hand carved altar is also in Roman style. The colors of its interior

form a rich blend of gold, rosewood, blue-green and ivory. Recent renovations have introduced the atmosphere of the churches found in the south and Mexico. The entire floor of the Sanctuary is covered with a beautiful carpet. All the statues and the Stations of the Cross have the appearance of old ivory. A covering of gold paint ornaments both the altar and the Communion rail. Soon after the close of World War II, a new pipe organ was installed, by the Rev. George Flynn, now pastor at Gilman.

During its early years, the Cabery parish, as an out-mission, was served by the pastors from Union Town, now Loretto. In 1892, St. Joseph's received its first resident pastor, Rev. J. F. Donovan. During the same year, the rectory was built.

At present, St. Joseph's parish is served by Rev. Edward Nuskowski. Father Nuskowski's tenure has been but six months, but during that short period he has already shown great zeal for parish organization, a factor very vital to rural parish welfare.





*Rev. Edmund Szott*  
Pastor

## **ST. STANISLAUS KANKAKEE**

In the fall of 1900 permission was sought from Archbishop Feehan of Chicago by a group of zealous Polish people in Kankakee to erect a parish serving the needs of the Polish Catholics in the area. Permission being granted, in November of that same fall, Father Maxamillian Kotecki assumed the duties of first pastor of Saint Stanislaus, Bishop and Martyr.

At that time the flock of Father Kotecki consisted of twenty-four families and two single men. Progress was rapid and the burdens of a new parish were shouldered with true Christian Charity. On Independence Day, 1901, the present two story edifice which serves as both church and school was dedicated. To demonstrate their outstanding love and loyalty for their pastor, these few self-sacrificing families mortgaged their own homes to finance the rectory. Poor in purse, they were very rich in their faith.

Father Kotecki was succeeded in December, 1901, by Father F. Nowacki. In 1914 under the Reverend B. Orlemanski, then pastor, the home on the left side of the church building was purchased as a con-

vent for the Sisters. Before this the Sisters occupied two of the class rooms. Under Father Orlemanski the sanctuary was enlarged and a new altar also purchased. During the pastorate of Father S. Koralewski, 1931-1943, the rectory was enlarged and renovated. Father F. Scieszka assumed the guidance of Saint Stanislaus in 1943 and established the first Catholic kindergarten in the city; it continues to serve not only the children of Saint Stanislaus, but many other Catholic children of the community. The present pastor, the Rev. E. Szott, took charge in 1954. He has been assisted by the Franciscan Fathers of Cedar Lake, Indiana, on Sundays.

The parochial school, which hitherto had been conducted by the laymen of the parish in one of the parishioner's homes, was given over in 1910 to the Sisters of the Holy Family of Nazareth. Classes for the 150 pupils are held in a section of the Church building set aside for that purpose. The present principal is Mother Mary Cordia.



Rev. Salvatore Giunta  
Assistant



Rev. Raymond H. DeMuth  
Pastor



## ST. LIBORIUS STEGER ST. BONIFACE MISSION MONEE

A large piano factory, operated by the Steger brothers, attracted a growing number of Catholic families in 1901 to the town of the same name. When lightning destroyed neighboring St. Anne's of Richton—center of Catholic life since 1859—Archbishop Feehan decreed that Rev. Joseph Rempe should establish a new parish in Steger, with the rebuilt St. Anne's Church as a mission station.

The Bishop of Paderborn in Germany, close friend of Father Rempe, sent him a first class relic of St. Liborius—Patron Saint of Paderborn—and when a combination church and rectory was dedicated March 2, 1902, St. Liborius became the patron of the new parish as well.

Rev. Leonard Schlimm, a Benedictine, succeeded Father Rempe. He purchased a half block of city land, and he moved the combination building from Steger Road and Green Street to its present location on Halsted and 35th. Father Schlimm, pastor of St. Paul's, Hoyne Avenue and 22nd, since 1904, is still the guiding light of that parish.

Bands played and banners waved on Sunday, September 22, 1912, when a happy throng greeted Archbishop Quigley at the C&EI station and escorted him to bless the parochial school. Father Theodore Gross

was the proud pastor on that memorable day. School Sisters of St. Francis undertook to teach 130 pupils in the new school; today seven Sisters and one lay teacher care for 370 pupils, almost triple the original enrollment in 1912.

Father John Ott guided St. Liborius' from 1917 until 1925, when he became the still beloved pastor of St. Isidore's in Cloverdale. He was followed by Father Conrad Plomin, Father Martin Weidner, and Father John J. Rengel—present pastor of Immaculate Conception Church in Chicago.

Rev. Raymond H. DeMuth, who became pastor in 1947, witnessed the glorious event of Oct. 19, 1952, when Bishop McNamara blessed the spacious new Convent building. He is ably assisted by Rev. Salvatore Giunta in ministering to the more than 350 families of the parish.

In 1867 a small church was erected in Monee. St. Boniface's mission, served by priests from St. Anne, Richton, and St. Liborius, was closed in 1931 because of dwindling population. St. Boniface's mission was reopened in 1951 and Bishop McNamara offered the first Mass. Forty to fifty attend Mass there each Sunday.





*Rt. Rev. Msgr. Gregory Cloos*  
*Pastor*



*Rev. Armando J. Rotondi, M.D.*  
*Assistant*

St. Anthony's Church in Joliet was founded on October 2, 1902, and has behind it already a half century of pastoral history. Its early days are a credit to the seventeen Italian families who besought Archbishop Feehan of Chicago to establish a parish for the Italian speaking Catholics at Joliet. They willingly took upon themselves great hardships. They had to attend Divine services in the basement of St. Mary's Church for nearly a year until their own church, formerly the Baptist Church could be restored and blessed. In purchasing the building each family incurred a debt of \$1,000, an enormous amount for people who had just emigrated from social and economic hardships in Europe.

But that first flock had whatever courage such an undertaking as forming a new parish called for and set a fine example for those who would follow them. Soon after, other families moved to Joliet and were enrolled in St. Anthony's. They were a part of that

great movement to which we owe much of our Catholic heritage today. With those immigrants was transported the Catholicism which was established by Saints Peter and Paul and matured in a climate of warmth and high cultural attainments. When the Faith was transported this second time, the journey was almost four times the distance of the first, and the land to which it was carried nearly twenty-five times as large. America was setting off on a path of progress comparable in some ways to that of Italy in Peter's time. Her greatest accomplishments were before her. What a task lay before those Italian immigrants! What a challenge to their solidarity!

Rev. Joseph Tonello, who had been called to America from Italy by Archbishop Feehan, led the first parishioners. Under his guidance the parish soon numbered over a thousand souls. In 1908, Rev. Modesto Gembrini replaced Father Tonello, and for the next eleven years he labored zealously for the spiritual and

## ST. ANTHONY'S JOLIET



*Rev. Lloyd Bowden  
Assistant*

material progress of the parish. The number of baptisms increased steadily, and, the spiritual aspects of the parish were brought into a closer concentration.

In 1919, Rev. Louis Valetto assumed pastoral duties from Father Gembrini, and during his thirteen years at St. Anthony's, the parish had its largest enrollment, its greatest numbers of baptisms, marriages and deaths. He also advanced the parish materially, building two sacristies and two offices, and installing new pews, altars, statues, and stained glass windows purchased from Germany. In 1932, Father Valetto stepped down from his office as pastor of St. Anthony's because of poor health, and Rev. Charles Lyons, O.S.M., administered the affairs of the parish for a year and a half, though never becoming pastor.

In 1934, the present pastor, Rt. Rev. Msgr. Gregory M. Cloos, was appointed to direct the church at Joliet. He secured a number of priests to help him in the

parish of whom the present assistants are Father Armand Rotondi and Father Lloyd M. Bowden.

As a parish St. Anthony's has seen a full life. Its societies, sodalities and activities are too many to enumerate here. The parish record shows there have been 7084 baptisms, 2337 marriages and 1977 deaths. The children receive Christian doctrine instructions and are prepared for the reception of the Sacraments by the good zealous Mantellate Sisters, Servants of Mary. Those original seventeen families could hardly have realized the enduring Faith they would establish. A Faith which is so graphically exemplified in the life of one of St. Anthony's curates, the Rev. Patrick Brennan, who, after spending a year at the parish, 1934-1935, joined the Columban Mission Society and in 1950 was martyred by the Communists on his mission field in Korea. Surely, the original families could not have envisioned these glorious results of their apostolic courage.





## ST. JOSEPH'S BRADLEY

In the year 1900, a mission later to be known as St. Joseph's, was established in Bradley. It was attended by the priests from St. Patrick's, Kankakee.

Archbishop Quigley elevated the mission to a parish in 1904, and appointed Rev. J. A. Milot, as first pastor. The Divine Services had formerly been held in a hall on Broadway Street, but Father Milot, looking for a more suitable place, found an old Baptist Church on Center Street, just off Broadway. This was rented and used as a church for three years. By this time Father Milot had completed the present combination church and school building.

In the fall of 1924, when Rev. Harris A. Darche was pastor, St. Joseph's parochial school was opened for the first time, with the Dominican Sisters of Springfield, Illinois, in charge. Rev. Raymond B. Bernau became pastor in 1937, after the death of



*Rev. Martin A. Henehan*  
Pastor



*Rev. Leonard J. Lenc*  
Assistant

Father Darche. The parish grew and in 1938 it received its first assistant, Rev. Hugh O'Brien.

In 1948, Father Bernau undertook an extensive building program. It consisted in moving the church, which had formerly occupied the second floor, to the first floor, and the conversion of the second floor into classrooms. Also a convent was built behind the combination building, and in the basement of the new structure a hall was added.

In 1950, Father Bernau was made a Domestic Prelate with the title of Right Reverend Monsignor. A few months later, the parish was shocked to learn of the sudden and premature death of Monsignor Bernau. Father Martin A. Henehan, the present pastor, was appointed in November of 1950. He is assisted by Rev. Leonard J. Lenc. Both of these priests are devoted to furthering the Faith among the 3027 souls entrusted to them by their predecessors.



*Rev. Salvatore Formusa*  
Pastor



## **ST. LAWRENCE** **SOUTH WILMINGTON**

Archbishop James Quigley appointed Rev. Lawrence Donna as first pastor of South Wilmington on July 24, 1904. The new church was solemnly dedicated on January 8, 1905, as St. Lawrence, Martyr, by the Archbishop. During his 21 years as pastor, Father Donna saw the parish grow remarkably. In 1909, there were 150 Baptisms, 15 marriages, and 126 First Communions.

In 1928, George Cardinal Mundelein appointed Rev. John A. Giusti as second pastor. The zeal of God's house consumed this young pastor. Deeply religious, he set about correcting many of the moral abuses which were particularly rampant during the "jazz and gin" age.

Following Father Giusti's death, Rev. August Pusateri was appointed pastor. The latter was especially well known and loved in priestly circles. His sociable manner endeared him to many in his new parish where he made it a point to visit both Catholics and

those not of the Fold. He not only paid off the parish debt but even accumulated a reserve fund!

Samuel Cardinal Stritch appointed Rev. Felix Matasso as the next pastor in January, 1945. During his pastorship, an addition was made to the sacristy, a new hall was constructed, new pews and a new boiler were placed in the church, and the church itself was entirely renovated.

With the formation of the new diocese in December, 1948, Grundy County passed under the jurisdiction of Bishop McNamara. The Bishop's first appointment in South Wilmington was Rev. Salvator Formusa, who replaced Father Matasso in June, 1953. Father Formusa had previously served as assistant at St. John Bosco and St. Charles Borromeo in Chicago, St. Anthony's in Joliet, and Immaculate Conception in Elmhurst.

The parish now numbers about 150 active families.





*Rev. John Nellis*  
Pastor

## **ST. JOSEPH'S MANHATTAN**

Ten miles south of Joliet on Route 52 lies the little village of Manhattan. The first Catholic activities in the neighborhood started in 1884 when Father Burke began attending to Manhattan as an out-mission from St. Mary's in Joliet. Father Burke later became Bishop of Cheyenne, Wyoming.

Six years later a Catholic church was built in the village under the direction of Father Christopher P. Foster, then the pastor of Sacred Heart, Joliet. In 1905, St. Joseph's was made a parish and Father Foster became its first pastor.

The story is told of his housekeeper that when he died in 1911, Archbishop Quigley received this telegram, "Father Foster died today. Send me a man for Sunday. Hannah." The Archbishop always kept that telegram on his desk before him.

Rev. Patrick McGee, who succeeded Father Foster as pastor, labored for eleven years in Manhattan. He endeared himself to his people and was known especially for his assistance to the sick and dying.

The pastor from 1922 to 1929, Father James L.

Kearns, built the lovely T-shaped building which now houses the church, a four-room school, and the convent, for the Sisters.

The splendid care of the school has been in the hands of the Sisters of St. Francis, Joliet, for the past thirty years.

During the trying years of the depression, Father Francis Glynn was in charge of St. Joseph's parish. In 1937 he was reassigned and Father John Gallery, who later became a Commander in the Navy, took his place and was "anchored" at St. Joseph's six years.

The present pastor, Father John Nellis, who has served St. Joseph's since 1943, has been in Will County since 1929.

There have been two vocations to the sisterhood from the parish, Sister Mary Beniti Doyle of the Mercy Order of Chicago, and Sister Mary Cornelia of the Cenacle.

The parish activities include a Holy Name Society, an Altar and Rosary Society, and the Catholic Order of Foresters for Men and Women.



*Rev. Eugene Doherty  
Pastor*



**ST. PATRICK'S  
WILTON CENTER**

**ST. PAUL'S MISSION  
PEOTONE**



*St. Paul Mission*

The "Grove Parish" as St. Patrick's was called around 1920 lies between Wilmington and Peotone. The original church of St. Patrick, built in 1864, was destroyed by a tornado just as it was completed. The good people started immediately and erected another church which was destroyed by fire on Christmas day, 1897. A third church was erected, and Rev. Joseph McNamee was appointed as first resident pastor in October, 1905. However, misfortune again struck this church which had been built by the Rev. Thomas F. O'Gara or the "dear old Father O'Gara" as the Irish people loved to call him. During the "Crash of '29" St. Patrick's was again destroyed by fire.

But the small community of Irish farmers who had generously supported their church for sixty years were not disheartened. Although they were more hard-pressed than ever in the heart of the depression, they again came to the rescue. Today, the beautiful

brick church which proudly bears the name of St. Patrick's of Wilton Center is a magnificent tribute to their faith and loyalty. The pastor of St. Patrick's is at the present Father E. Doherty.

As once St. Patrick's church was a mission of St. Rose, Wilmington, and later a mission of St. Joseph, Manteno, so now St. Paul's, Peotone, is a mission of St. Patrick's. St. Paul's church, which is the only air-conditioned church in the diocese of Joliet, is a far cry from the time back in 1906 when the pastor of St. Patrick's first began to give lectures in the town "opera house." Forty years later, in a rented store Mass began to be celebrated in town. In 1950, a hall was rented to accommodate the people, and then the town was made a mission of St. Patrick's. Finally in 1951 the town's movie theatre was purchased. After it was beautifully renovated, it was dedicated in July of 1952 by Bishop McNamara.





### **ST. MARY'S PLANO**

### **ST. PATRICK'S MISSION BRISTOL STATION**

### **ST. ANNE'S MISSION OSWEGO**

Before the church was built at Plano, the Catholic population had to travel to Somonauk to hear Mass each Sunday. In 1884, Father Heith of Somonauk and Mr. John Kerwin of Plano purchased land for a church from Mr. Louis Stewart, a non-Catholic who donated 10% of the building costs. St. Mary's Church was solemnly dedicated in 1898 by His Eminence, Cardinal Satolli, the Apostolic Delegate.

In 1905, Reverend J. C. Welsh was appointed the first resident pastor. A few years later, during the pastorate of Father James Quinn, the present rectory was constructed. In 1950, Father John Then resigned due to poor health and the parish was entrusted to the Marian Fathers by Bishop McNamara. An extensive parish, St. Mary's boundaries include all the territory of Kendall County which was formerly in the Rockford Diocese. It has two mission churches, St. Patrick's in Bristol Station and St. Anne's in Oswego. The present pastor, Father John Savukynas, M.I.C., assisted by Father Edmund Budrecki, M.I.C., also have the care of St. Patrick's at Bristol Station and St. Anne's in Oswego.

St. Patrick's mission was founded by Father C. J. Huth of Somonauk in 1869. It was through the efforts of Father Erhard that a church was built. It



*Rev. John Savukynas,  
M.I.C., Pastor*



*Rev. Edmund Budrecki,  
M.I.C., Assistant*



*St. Patrick's  
Mission*



*St. Anne's  
Mission*

was dedicated on October 8, 1885, as the first Catholic Church in Kendall County. Land for a cemetery was purchased the same year. Since 1900, the pastors at Plano have attended to the needs of the mission. It was not until 1949 that services were held throughout the year because at this time an oil-heating system was installed.

After the establishment of the Diocese of Joliet, the faithful of Oswego were placed under its jurisdiction. The Mission of Oswego, dedicated to St. Anne, was officially established on February 26, 1953. In December of the same year, the church was completed and the first mass was said on Christmas Eve.

Archbishop William O'Brien of Chicago solemnly dedicated St. Anne's Church on Mothers' Day, Sunday, May 9, 1954.



Rev. J. J. Kinzig  
Assistant

Rev. L. J. Kiley  
Pastor



## ST. JOSEPH'S DOWNERS GROVE

Early in 1906 the parish of St. Joseph, Downers Grove, consisting of forty-eight families, was established. Father J. A. Bollman came from LaGrange each Sunday to say Mass in a hall on Main Street. Under Father Bollman's direction plans for a new church were made and the cornerstone was laid in the spring of 1906.

Father Eneas Goodwin was appointed the first resident pastor. Under his direction the church and rectory, located on Franklin Street, were completed. With the growth of the parish, a school building with eight class rooms and a community hall was erected in 1925. The Ursuline Sisters were in charge of the school until 1931 when the faculty was changed to the Sisters of Providence.

A member of the congregation donated land for a cemetery in 1913. It was consecrated as St. Bernard's Cemetery on June 1 of that year.

In 1930 Father Goodwin resigned to devote his entire time to teaching. Father Cyril F. Meade was

appointed to succeed Father Goodwin. The parish continued to grow and Father David O'Connor was appointed to assist Father Meade. In the ensuing years the following assistants were sent to serve with Father Meade: Father Gordon Campbell, Father John O'Shea and Father Francis Fraser.

Father Meade was then transferred to Chicago and Father L. J. Kiley was appointed to succeed him in 1943. The church was remodeled and enlarged in 1948, and in 1950 a convent with accommodations for fifteen Sisters was erected. The following year the basement of the church was remodeled into the Sacred Heart Chapel where two Masses are said each Sunday. A new building, housing a temporary church, social hall and class rooms, is under construction at the present time. In the fall of 1955 four additional class rooms will be opened.

The following assistants served the parish with Father Kiley: Father Edward Hughes, Father Fred Golden, and at present Father James Kinzig.





*Rev. Aloysius Sinsky*  
Pastor

## **ST. MARY'S NATIVITY JOLIET**

At the persistent requests of the Croatian settlers in Joliet, St. Mary's Nativity Croatian Parish was founded in August, 1906, by the Most Rev. Archbishop J. E. Quigley.

Father Violic was solicited from Bishop J. J. Marčelić, Bishop of Ragusa, Yugoslavia, by the Archbishop of Chicago. In May, 1906, Father Violic came to Joliet as the first pastor, and began the forming of St. Mary's parish. His initial project was the school which was used for Divine Services until the church was erected. How very appropriate was the celebration of the first Mass in the school-church. It was at Christmas Midnight Mass that Christ not only came into the hearts of the flock of St. Mary's, but also in them at the same time did Christ's Mystical Body receive them as members. The church was built in 1907 with a seating capacity of 500, and dedicated by the Most Rev. Bishop McGavick, October 27, 1907.

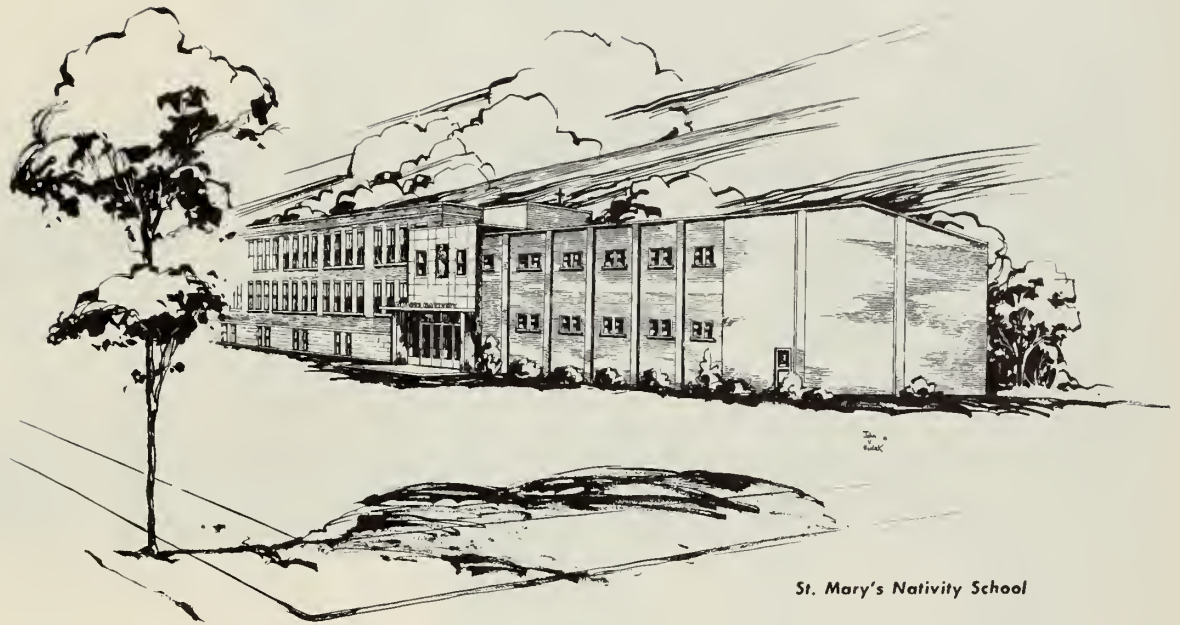
When the school opened September, 1907, the Sisters of the Precious Blood, Alton, Ill., were in

charge. Sixty-four pupils were enrolled. In 1912 however, the Sisters of the Third Order of St. Francis, from Maribor, Yugoslavia, comprised the teaching staff, and while under their care, the enrollment increased considerably. It was necessary to build an addition in 1914, to accommodate the children of the parish, due to the great influx of new pupils.

The founding pastor, Rev. George Violic died in 1939, and the Rev. A. J. Sinsky was appointed Administrator. This title Father Sinsky retained until 1950 when he received his appointment as pastor, in which capacity he is presently serving.

December 31, 1941, St. Mary's Parish was a victim of disaster. It was at this time that the church ceiling collapsed causing great damage. All church services were then held in the school hall.

After careful planning, the church was rebuilt through the generous contributions of the parishioners and the various Joliet and Chicago parishes.



In the extreme north-west section of Joliet is the territory known as Homewood or Lidice. Gas rationing being in effect, due to World War II, made it difficult for the people to attend Mass in the city. Upon the request of Father Sinsky, the Chancery Office permitted the celebration of Holy Mass in the Chaney School Gym. The gym served as a chapel for five years, after which a new church for that district was proposed under the title of St. Anne. Dedication ceremonies were held on May 2, 1948. St. Mary's Nativity Parish aided financially in this undertaking. Work progressed as their treasury permitted. An announcement of St. Anne's independence was released in June, 1953. It was no longer a Mission of St. Mary's, but a Parish.

To provide sufficient and convenient transportation for the many children attending St. Mary's and the neighboring schools, St. Mary's purchased two buses in 1943. This step enabled most parents to send their children to a parochial school.

June 27, 1953—another tragedy was sustained by the parishioners of St. Mary's—a fire which destroyed the major section of the school, thus necessitating its rehabilitation, and the purchasing of a new convent located at 700 North Hickory Street. Also included in the plans is a gymnasium extending from the south side of the present school.

St. Mary's has a membership of 500 families.

Assisting Father Sinsky with all the priestly duties of his parish are the Marian Fathers of Clarendon Hills, Ill., and the Carmelites who render their services on Sundays.

The ample assistance placed at the disposal of the pastors by the sacrifice and cooperation of their flock has enabled the priests to manifest their devotion and zeal in external works and above all in the fundamental development of spiritual life of the people.

On the parish grounds are the church, rectory, convent, school and gymnasium, located at 706-708 North Broadway Street.





*Rt. Rev. Msgr. E. A. Sweeney, V.F.  
Pastor*

## ST. EDMUND'S WATSEKA

Fire! The church is on fire!

The cry went up on a bleak January day of 1938, but the efforts of the brave fire-fighters could not extinguish the blaze and St. Edmund's Church was reduced to ashes. The church had served its people some sixty-five years.

It was a mission church until 1908 when Bishop John L. Spalding of Peoria sent Reverend T. J. Timmons to be its first resident pastor. Father Timmons built a new rectory and improved the church.

Reverend Francis A. Cleary succeeded him. Father Cleary purchased land in hopes of building a new St. Edmund's. The home on this land was converted into the Parish Club House.

The old edifice greeted Reverend E. W. Flynn in 1935 when he became its new shepherd. Three years later Father Flynn looked through the smoky cold air at the charred remains of the old church.

In April Bishop Joseph H. Schlarman sent Reverend E. A. O'Connor to take Father Flynn's place.

Through the summer and fall of 1938 he said Mass in the old Braden Opera House. In September Bishop Schlarman blessed the cornerstone of the new church. The community heard Mass in the new St. Edmund's for the first time on May 21, 1939.

Reverend James T. Clancy was appointed Pastor in 1943. During his five-year pastorate, he liquidated the total debt of the parish.

Reverend E. A. Sweeney succeeded Father Clancy in January of 1947. Two years later, March 24, 1949, Father's flock became a part of the new Diocese of Joliet under Bishop McNamara. The next month Bishop McNamara transferred the Deanery of Ford-Iroquois Counties to Saint Edmund's Parish.

The Bishop came to Watseka on November 13, 1950, to invest Monsignor Sweeney in the robes of a Domestic Prelate.

The latest addition to the parish was the garage built on the rear of the rectory through the efforts of the Holy Name Society during October, 1954.



*Rev. Herman Ezell  
Pastor*

## **ST. MARY'S PLAINFIELD**



In 1907, the Rev. William McNamee purchased a Universalist church, added a sanctuary and high altar, named the church Mary Immaculate, and gave Plainfield a Catholic Church. Although Plainfield now had a Catholic Church there was no resident pastor, so the spiritual needs of the congregation were taken care of by Father McNamee, who was also pastor of St. Mary's Church in Joliet.

In 1909, the Most Rev. Archbishop Quigley saw the need of a resident pastor at Mary Immaculate and appointed the Rev. Charles Epstein to that office.

In 1910 ground was purchased for the Catholic cemetery, and in the same year the parish boundaries were officially set down by Archbishop Quigley, including about 40 families with Michael Dranden, Henry Budler, and William Upton among the trustees.

Father Epstein directed the construction of a church hall, which was built by the parishioners, and installed a heating plant, and stained glass windows.

In November, 1916, Father Epstein was succeeded

by the Rev. Peter Lieser, who erected two side altars and formed the Holy Name Society.

In 1917, Father Lieser invited the Sisters from the St. Francis Convent to hold catechism classes for the children on Saturday afternoons, a task which was formerly taken care of after the Sunday Masses by the pastor assisted by several young ladies.

The church interior was entirely renovated and the main altar rebuilt in 1938, under the zealous pastorate of Rev. Herman Ezell, the present incumbent.

Toward the end of 1953, a drive was initiated to secure funds for a Catholic grade school. Ground-breaking ceremonies were held in November, 1954. Construction is now under way, and it is expected that St. Mary's Grade School will open its first classes in September, 1955, staffed by Sisters of the Order of St. Francis of Mary Immaculate who have instructed the Catholic boys and girls of Plainfield and vicinity for almost forty years.





*Rev. Francis P. Blum, O. Carm.  
Pastor*

## ST. BERNARD'S JOLIET



*Rev. Colman Walsh, O. Carm.  
Assistant*

St. Bernard's Parish was founded in 1911 by the Reverend W. J. McNamee, then pastor of St. Mary's Church, to fulfill the needs of a growing Catholic population at Ridgewood. Before the completion of the combination church and school, services were held in the old A. O. Marshall School. St. Bernard's remained under the direction of the priests of St. Mary's until June of 1921 when the Reverend James P. Cannell became its first resident pastor. He was succeeded by the Reverend Edmund Burke, who died in May, 1925, just five months after his appointment. St. Bernard's next pastor, the Reverend William P. Long, completed Father Burke's work on a new addition to the building. More improvements in parish property were due to the efforts of Father Walter Murphy, pastor from 1927 to 1933.

September of 1933 brought the Carmelite Fathers to Joliet and to St. Bernard's. Father Robert Bligh, O.Carm., who instituted a perpetual novena to the Little Flower, was the first Carmelite pastor.

His successor in 1934, Father Gabriel Pausback, O.Carm., reorganized the parish societies, giving them greater spiritual unity. In 1937 Father Gabriel became Assistant General of the Carmelite Order.

In January of 1938, Father Francis P. Blum, O.Carm., was appointed pastor. Under Father Blum the church was completely renovated and a kindergarten established. Land was purchased across the street from the church, and in 1949 a new school annex was opened. This year a convent has been added to St. Bernard's.

Father Blum has one curate, Father Colman Walsh, O.Carm., and together they serve 400 families representing some 1500 souls.

St. Bernard's School until 1919 was under the direction of the Ladies of Loretto, but since then the Sisters of St. Francis of Mary Immaculate have been in charge. Today there are 340 pupils, nine Sisters, with Sister Mary Paul, O.F.M., as principal.

Rev. Stephen P. Luzetsky,  
Pastor



## ST. MARY'S ASSUMPTION GREEK RITE JOLIET

The Pastor and Parishioners of St. Mary's Greek Catholic Church are highly honored and privileged to be included in the dedication brochure of their Catholic brethren of the Latin Rite. This act of fraternal love, understanding and respect truly exemplifies the equality and universality of the One, Holy, Catholic and Apostolic Church, with its various Rites. This equality and simultaneous difference in ways of worship are beautifully described by His Holiness, Pope Benedict XV of blessed memory, when he said:

"The Church of Jesus Christ is neither Latin nor Greek nor Slav, but Catholic; accordingly she makes no difference between her children; and Greeks, Latins, Slavs and members of all nations are equal in the eyes of the Apostolic See."

The Byzantine-Slavonic (Greek) Rite has been developed by Saints Cyril and Methodius (the Apostles of the Slavs) who brought true Christianity to the Slavs in the Ninth Century, from their native Byzantium, now known as Istanbul, Turkey (Constantinople). The Byzantine-Slavonic or "Greek" Rite consists not of Greeks as such, as one might at first think, but in reality is composed of Slavs of Ukrainian, Ruthenian (Rusin), Hungarian (Magyar), and Croatian descent; all of Slav origin, but commonly known as "Greek" Catholics because of the origin of their Christianity.

St. Mary's Assumption Greek Catholic Church of Joliet belongs under the jurisdiction of the Bishop of the Pittsburgh Greek Rite Diocese, with its see at

Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. Bishop Daniel Ivancho is at present the Apostolic Exarch and Bishop Nicholas T. Elko the Apostolic Administrator.

Greek Catholics first began organizing in Joliet in 1903. In 1915 the cornerstone was laid for the present Church which was dedicated on July 15, 1917. These dates will remain as memorable ones in the hearts of all Greek Catholics in Joliet and its vicinity.

The Church and other property are located at the corner of Hacker and Williamson Avenues, in the north-east section of Joliet. The Cemetery, commonly known as Mount Calvary, is located in the Forest Park section on the outskirts of Joliet. There are three very enthusiastic and active organizations in its Parochial life: the largest is the MOTHERS' CLUB, then the Altar and Rosary Society and undoubtedly the most unique organization composed of the young men, THE CATHOLIC KNIGHTS OF THE EASTERN RITE.

All that has been accomplished at St. Mary's Assumption Greek Catholic Church is due to the zeal of all the priests who have served the parish and the cooperation of the people. The Reverend Stephen Luzetsky is the present pastor.

St. Mary's Assumption Greek Rite Catholic Church most cordially invites all Catholic brethren of the Latin Rite to visit and attend Mass in the Church of their paternal Rite, so that they may the better get to know, and understand one another and promote a spirit of greater love and cooperation with each other, thereby showing all belong to the One, Holy, Catholic and Apostolic Church.





**Rev. A. F. Stutzke,**  
*Pastor*



**Rev. William**  
*Brambrink, Assistant*

## **SACRED HEART LOMBARD**

Prior to 1912, the Catholic people in Lombard and vicinity had to travel either to Elmhurst or to Wheaton to assist at Mass or to attend a Catholic school. On July 13, 1912, the Most Reverend James E. Quigley, Archbishop of Chicago, appointed the Reverend Anthony J. Boecker as the first pastor to the newly-established Sacred Heart parish in Lombard. The new parish included the three towns of Villa Park, Lombard and Glen Ellyn, with its southern boundary about 22nd Street (Butterfield Road). No northern boundary was set because there was no other parish in that direction. Father Boecker counted only 32 Catholic families in Lombard and only 50 Catholic families in his entire parish.

The first Mass was offered in the assembly hall of the "old" Lincoln School on St. Charles Rd. on July 28, 1912 (the collection that day was \$23.46). Four lots were purchased from Miss "Maggie" Ho-

gan, the aunt of Bishop McNamara, now Bishop of Joliet. The Hogan barn was immediately converted into two classrooms and the first Catholic School in Lombard opened in September, 1912, with 30 pupils. One Sister and one candidate comprised the teaching staff. The Lincoln School was used for church services until Feb. 2, 1913, when the first Mass was offered in the hall of the newly-erected combination church and school building. Mass was celebrated in the new church for the first time on Easter Sunday, 1913. The annual report for that year shows 15 baptisms, one funeral and two marriages.

In the summer of 1934, Reverend Joseph A. Gehrig was appointed by His Eminence, George Cardinal Mundelein, to succeed Father Boecker, who had resigned. The parish then numbered 150 families with 163 children in school. The parish debt was \$120,000.00. The interest on this debt and the op-



*Rev. William P. Fox,  
Assistant*



*The late  
Rev. Anthony J.  
Boecker, First Pastor*



*Sacred Heart School Building*

erating expenses of the parish exceeded the total annual income. By 1948, when Father Gehrig was transferred to St. Philomena parish in Chicago, the debt had been reduced to \$52,500. When His Eminence, Samuel Cardinal Stritch, appointed Rev. Andrew F. Stutzke to succeed Father Gehrig in April, 1948, the parish had grown to 450 families with 186 children crowded into four classrooms. On June 1, 1949, Rev. Joseph Jurkovich was assigned to assist Father Stutzke in caring for the ever-expanding parish. A second assistant was appointed to Sacred Heart parish in January, 1953, in the person of Rev. Harry McGee, S.V.D. The school term of 1952-53 found all eight classrooms overcrowded. Consequently, in June, 1953, a new wing, consisting of 9 classrooms, was added to the school building at a cost of \$200,000. With the rapidly growing school, the Sisters' convent was inadequate to house the

nuns and so in July, 1954, the convent was remodeled and enlarged at an approximate cost of \$100,000.

Father McGee was transferred to St. Louis, Mo., in August, 1953, and Rev. William Brambrink took his place. The following year, August 14, 1954, the newly-ordained Rev. William Fox was appointed to succeed Father Jurkovich, who, after a few months as assistant at St. Mary's church in Plainfield, was appointed pastor of Our Lady of Lourdes parish in Gibson City.

A picture of the growth of Sacred Heart parish in its 42 year history is reflected in the annual report for 1954 which shows the following statistics: 3 priests, 13 sisters, 645 children in Catholic School, 292 public school children attending Catechism classes, 1300 families with 5400 souls, 8 Sunday Masses, 16 converts, 195 baptisms, 21 deaths and 32 marriages.





*Rt. Rev. Msgr. Edwin  
Hoover, Pastor*



*Rev. Joseph M.  
Shimanek, Assistant*

## **ST. RAYMOND NONNATUS JOLIET**

At a time when dark clouds of war hovered over our nation, Archbishop Mundelein on June 28, 1917, established the parish of St. Raymond. He saw that old St. Patrick's Church on Broadway had become totally inadequate to accommodate the ever increasing population of Joliet's new west side.

The Archbishop selected as pastor of this infant parish the Reverend Francis Scanlan, who was at the time assistant at Holy Cross Church, Chicago. Father Scanlan held services for over a year in St. Francis Convent Chapel before plans were completed to erect a church.

Ground was broken for the new building on November 8, 1917, but shortly after, work was discontinued until spring. Bishop McGavick set the corner stone in place on Sunday, April 28, 1918. The full import of this accomplishment is realized when one considers that building materials were at a premium and difficult to obtain at this time. The parochial house was also erected at this time and was ready for occupancy by Christmas, 1918. Reverend Thomas Small was the celebrant at the first Solemn Mass

in the new church on December 8, 1918, the Feast of the Immaculate Conception.

The next goal of Father Scanlan and his congregation, a school section of the building was prepared to receive pupils in September of that year. A total of 190 children sought admission under direction of the Sisters of St. Francis.

The first Holy Communion class, 59 children in all, advanced to the Communion rail in May, 1918. Baptisms during the first year of St. Raymond's were 47 in number. Confirmation was administered at St. Raymond's by Bishop McGavick to a class of 230.

Saint Raymond's Church was solemnly dedicated by Archbishop Mundelein in May, 1919, on which occasion the Archbishop voiced his pleasure with the rapid work of the clergy and parishioners of St. Raymond's parish.

As time passed, a number of zealous priests attended the increasing needs of the parish. The first curate to assist Father Scanlan was the Reverend Joseph Griffin, who was followed directly by Rev-



**Rev. John D.  
Sullivan, Assistant**



**The late Rev.  
Francis Scanlan**



**St. Raymond Nonnatus, Parish Hall**

erend Daniel Harnett. Shortly after returning from Rome, Father Thomas Tormey served as assistant from 1920 to 1926 and was succeeded by Father Francis Bellerieve, who remained until 1937. After a tragic death terminated the short stay of Father William Desmond, Father Cornelius Corkery was assigned to St. Raymond's and remained there until May, 1939. Father Joseph Reilly, R.I.P., and Father Laurence Boyle came to the parish in 1938 and 1939, respectively. Other priests and the dates they commenced duties at St. Raymond's are Father Thomas O'Keefe, 1943; Father Vincent Lynch, 1948; Father Lloyd Bowden, 1949; Father Peter Seidl, 1952; Father Paul Benson, 1953; and Fathers Joseph Shimane and John Sullivan, the present assistants.

All Joliet was saddened by the death of Father Scanlan on July 30, 1941. After careful deliberation, Archbishop Stritch selected as Father Scanlan's successor, the Reverend Edwin V. Hoover, professor at Quigley Seminary, and director of music for the Chicago Archdiocese. Father Hoover, assumed his duties as pastor of St. Raymond's in October, 1941.

Sisters of St. Francis have directed the parish

school since its founding. Grateful pupils recall affectionately the long line of devout and able nuns who taught them. First principal was Sister M. Mercedes, later supervisor of schools for the Order. She was succeeded by Sister M. Edna, a familiar and beloved figure to St. Raymond pupils for two decades. Sister M. Salome was first Superior of the Convent, purchased in 1937. Then in order came Sister Gregory, Sister Alicia, who literally died at her post, and Sister Verdiana present principal of the augmented enrollment of 872 children. Sister Audrey is Superioress of St. Raymond's Convent at the present time.

The history of the Cathedral involves only two Pastors—Father Scanlan, R.I.P., and Monsignor Hoover, present rector. Much has been packed into this 37 year history: tremendous growth — school enrollment increased from 190 to 872; significant changes from a Parish Church to a Cathedral in the fledgling Diocese of Joliet. "When all the captains and the kings depart, may we, O Lord, contain thine ancient sacrifice: a humble and contrite heart."





*Rev. John Ott, Pastor*

## ST. ISIDORE CLOVERDALE

The first Cardinal of the West, Cardinal Mundelein, was the recipient of a petition sent by the people of Cloverdale, Illinois, for a church and school. The sincerity of the petition was guaranteed by subscriptions amounting to more than \$24,000.

This rural community saw the fruit of its petition when the parish was canonically erected under the protection of St. Isidore The Farmer, on March 5, 1920. Rev. John Wester was appointed pastor. A few months passed quickly by, and ground was broken for the new church on May 29, 1920.

Only a little more than a year later, the parishioners viewed the dedication ceremony of the combination church and school building; this happy occasion took place September 18, 1921.

The parish grew and prospered under the guiding hand of its first pastor, who was able to behold the seed of his labors maturing into a fruitful flower

for the inhabitants of Cloverdale.

Rev. John Ott, the present pastor of St. Isidore, was appointed to succeed Father Wester. Father Ott was able to move into the present rectory in 1926.

Father Ott has carefully supervised all phases and activities of the parish life, social as well as religious. His untiring work on behalf of his parishioners has resulted in an increase in the families of the parish and in the betterment of the entire community. From 47 families in 1920, the parish has tripled in 35 years to 150 families today.

Always looking out for the interests of the parish, Father Ott acquired a convent in 1943 and furnished it to house the four nuns teaching in the school.

The history of St. Isidore Church in Cloverdale is one of progress—progress, under the supervision of Fathers Wester and Ott, and progress in the spiritual welfare of the people of Cloverdale.



*Rev. Vincent B.  
Lavery, Pastor*



*Rev. James Gilbride,  
Assistant*

## **ST. JOSEPH'S ROCKDALE**

On the outskirts of Joliet, just southwest of the city, was founded the present parish of St. Joseph's, Rockdale. The cornerstone of St. Joseph's was laid on Thanksgiving Day, 1914, and the first Mass was read by Rev. John Klonowski of South Chicago in November of 1915.

The first pastor, Rev. John Baltutis, was appointed in January of 1916. After sixteen months he was followed by Rev. Ignatius Majorouski. The latter was succeeded by Rev. John. J. Statkus, and two years later Rev. Stephen P. Sullivan was appointed pastor.

Two and a half years after its founding the church at Rockdale was made a mission of St. Joseph's Church in Joliet and was directed by Rev. John Plevnik and Rev. M. J. Butala.

On Christmas Day, 1927, St. Joseph's regained its parish status under the direction of the Benedictine

Order of Peru. Rev. Joseph Brons, O.S.B., was the first administrator. He was followed fifteen years later by Rev. Casimir, O.S.B.

In January of 1951 the Benedictines from Lisle, Illinois, were appointed administrators under the capable leadership of Rev. Bernard, O.S.B., and Rev. Philip Bajo, O.S.B.

In May of 1954 Bishop McNamara appointed Rev. Vincent B. Lavery as pastor, and a few months later Rev. James Gilbride was named assistant. At the present time the parish numbers four hundred and sixty-five families.

The present rectory was built in 1930. The parish school, erected in 1949, is staffed by five nuns of the Order of St. Dominic, Adrian, Michigan, and at present has an enrollment of 240 children.





*Rev. Vincent R. Lynch,  
Pastor*

## **ST. MARGARET MARY HERSCHER**

The origin of St. Margaret Mary parish in Herscher goes back to the coming of the early settlers in Pilot just when Kankakee county was set apart from Will and Iroquois counties in 1853.

The parish history compiled by the Rev. Joseph Meyer shows that the pioneers arrived between the years 1854 and 1872, most of them from Alsace-Lorraine and from Bavaria. At first missionary priests went to attend to their spiritual wants and offered mass in private homes.

On Nov. 24, 1867 a church building society was organized and on October 4, 1869 the parish church was dedicated to the apostles Peter and Paul. From 1869 to 1873 the parish was a mission attended to by the Rev. Kuchenbuch, pastor in Chebanse. From 1873 to 1899 it was a mission of St. Mary Immaculate Conception in Kankakee. From 1899 to 1920 the parish was united under the pastor of Sacred Heart church in Goodrich, the Rev. J. Meyer.

After the parish commemorated its golden jubilee on Oct. 8, 1919 the Archbishop of Chicago, George Cardinal Mundelein was petitioned to permit the removal of the parish from Pilot to Herscher. In July, 1920, the new parish of St. Margaret Mary was organized with the Rev. Joseph Rempe as pastor. Five acres of land was donated by Joseph Fritz and the new church was erected there and solemnly dedicated in July 1921.

On Oct. 8, 1949 the new bishop of Joliet the Most Rev. Martin D. McNamara joined in the 80th anniversary commemoration of the first church and blessed the new art glass windows installed and the new parish hall. The churchbell, donated by Adam Fritz in 1891, is now electrically operated.

The Rev. Vincent J. Cloos, succeeded the Rev. Joseph Rempe on Feb. 1, 1948.

The present pastor, the Rev. Vincent R. Lynch was appointed September 1, 1952.



*St. Joseph's Mission*



*Rev. Paul J. Benson, Pastor*



## **ST. MARY'S PAXTON**

## **ST. JOSEPH'S MISSION LODA**

Records from St. Mary's, Paxton, date back as far as 1860, when it was an adjunct of St. Mary's, Champaign. In the early eighties, it is supposed to have been annexed to Loda, but this is not certain since the records of Loda up to 1913 were destroyed by fire. It is known, however, that Father Louis Heideman, pastor of Loda from 1882 to 1899, built a brick church on the eastern outskirts of Paxton. Old residents state that the erection of the church was completed in 1883.

This building was later demolished and the erection of a new church, a missionary venture considering the financial revenue of the parish at that time, was carried to a successful completion in 1910 by the resourcefulness of Monsignor P. H. Durkin, then pastor of Rantoul. The present rectory was built by Father Bernard Sheedy, the first resident pastor, in 1921. Fr. Sheedy was succeeded by Father Peter Kluck, Father Paul Dinan and the present pastor,

Father Paul J. Benson, who has been at St. Mary's since 1954. In 1949, Paxton acquired the mission of St. Joseph's, Loda, and under the capable hand of Fr. Dinan, a parish hall was built in 1952 to provide meeting space for the increased number of parishioners. There was also an increase in the number of Air Force personnel at Chanute Field, Rantoul, which consequently made the building of a parish hall an absolute necessity. St. Joseph's, Loda, was once a parish itself but due to the small number of families, it was not able to support a resident pastor and was thus annexed to Paxton. Some of the priests who staffed it when it was a parish were Father John B. Fanning, who served until 1873; Father Louis Heideman, 1882 to 1899, who built a two story frame school there in 1882, containing two classrooms, room for nuns and a greenhouse. Fr. Philip Markey, who stayed at Loda the longest, nearly nineteen years, is remembered for the devoted service he gave to the faithful.





*Rev. Daniel Murray,  
Pastor*



*The late Rev. Henry  
F. Kennedy*

## ST. ALEXANDER VILLA PARK

Parish of the Eucharist should be the title of St. Alexander's parish in Villa Park. When Father Henry F. Kennedy, founder and almost lifetime pastor, received his appointment, an old priest friend advised him wisely: "Father Hank, get your people to Holy Communion, and the Lord will do the work Himself!" For thirty-one long years, in season and out, Father Kennedy preached frequent Communion with the devotedness of Pope St. Pius X himself. As a result, neither the cramped conditions of "The Wooden Ark" (Temporary church) nor adverse weather could ever keep hundreds from crowding to the Communion rail every Sunday of the year.

Cardinal Mundelein established the parish of St. Alexander I, Pope and Martyr, on October 17, 1924, and Father Kennedy said the first Mass in "The Wooden Ark" on December 8, 1924. A combination building, including classrooms, convent and auditorium, was built and opened in September 1925.

In response to Father Kennedy's request for teachers, Mother Adela Du Sacre Coeur sent five

Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur from Cincinnati, Ohio. The pioneer group included Sisters Constantine of the Sacred Heart, Alice Mary, Francis Adela, Margaret Julia, and Marie Saint John. They and their successors, the present faculty under Sister Genevieve, have labored mightily for the children of the parish, nourishing those labors through constant prayer and the intercession of their foundress, Blessed Julie Billiart.

The cornerstone for the fine new church was laid by Bishop McNamara in 1952. Fittingly, the first Mass was sung on another feast of Our Lady, Assumption Day, Aug. 15, 1954.

Father Kennedy's first assistant was Father Francis M. Bay, who had been officially retired but served nobly nonetheless. Father John Podesta was assigned in 1951, and Father James Dicken in 1953. When Father Kennedy died after a lingering illness on Jan. 28, 1955, Father Daniel Murray was appointed second pastor of St. Alexander's.



*Rev. Frederic J.  
Beller, O.S.B.,  
Pastor*



*Rev. Patrick M.  
Bradley, O.S.B.,  
Assistant*

## ST. JOAN OF ARC LISLE

St. Joan of Arc Church is the only Catholic church in the entire community of Lisle, and embraces an area of twenty-four square miles.

When first established in 1924, services had to be held in a hall, located above a local hardware store, because there was no church. Through the efforts and generosity of the parishioners, the present combination building, consisting of church, school and an auditorium was soon erected.

On June 25, 1927, the first services were held in the new St. Joan of Arc Church. The initial church committee was organized under the guidance of St. Joan of Arc's first pastor, Rev. Aloysius Keklik, O.S.B. The members of that committee were Adam Kohley, Joseph Long, Adolph J. Meadel, Dave Meyer and August Riedy.

The school, under the direction of the Sisters of St. Benedict, was opened for the fall term the same

year. By 1953, the enrollment of pupils at the school reached the total of one hundred and eighty-three.

Since its founding in 1924, St. Joan of Arc's Parish has been under the direction of the Benedictine Fathers from St. Procopius Abbey. The following Sons of St. Benedict have guided its destiny: Fathers Raymond Koman, O.S.B., Andrew Skvarda, O.S.B., Gerard Mach, O.S.B., and Francis Sindelar, O.S.B. The present pastor of this rapidly growing flock is Rev. Frederic J. Beller, O.S.B., who was appointed in July, 1950.

An effort is now being made to raise funds to build a new and larger school to accommodate the needs of the growing Catholic school population of the Lisle community. Judging from the response to the appeals made for the substantial brick structure of 1927, these new pleas will be met with generosity and a splendid spirit of sacrifice on the part of St. Joan of Arc's parishioners.





*Rt. Rev. Msgr. Eugene J. Luke, Pastor*



*Rev. Edmund J.  
Gregory, Assistant*

## **ST. PETRONILLE GLEN ELLYN**

In DuPage County between the City of Wheaton and the Town of Lombard, is the Village of Glen Ellyn. For many years, the Catholic people of this beautiful Village, dating back to 1833, attended the Churches of St. Michael in Wheaton and Sacred Heart in Lombard.

In 1925, the frequently repeated petition for their own parish was granted to the sixty Catholic families of the Village by His Eminence George Cardinal Mundelein. The days of travel by foot, horseback, buggy or train to the neighboring parishes was over! The definite parish boundaries of President Street, in East Wheaton and the DuPage River with Swift Road in Lombard marked off the infant parish.

The Rev. Walter L. Fasnacht was appointed the founder of the new parish to be known as St. Petronille. The first Mass was celebrated on April 19,

1925. Already on February 7, 1926, Holy Mass was offered in the new combination building consisting of Church, hall and six classrooms. The following September, the school was opened. The dynamic spirit of the Rev. Founder and people was given an added impetus thru the generosity of the saintly pastor of Sacred Heart Church in Lombard, Father Anthony Boecker, who returned all monies given to the Lombard parish by Glen Ellynites. More property was purchased during the short temporary administratorship of the Rev. John J. Schiller.

After five years of activity and real foundation work, in June 1930, with a heavy heart, the Rev. Founder, Father Fasnacht, left his baby-parish. Fortunately, into the very capable hands and care of the Rev. Peter Engeln, the infant parish was placed. The Rev. Founder, now Monsignor Fasnacht, pas-

*St. Petronille School*



tor of St. Benedict's in Chicago, had witnessed and weathered the Fiery Cross of the Ku Klux Klan, but his successor Father Engeln, now pastor of St. Nicholas in Evanston, experienced and very successfully combated a far greater cross—the Depression Years. The determination and willingness to sacrifice on the part of the people, which originally caused the birth of the parish, again was heroically manifested during those lean years, not only to keep the parish alive but to continue its healthy growth, by liquidating part of the debt.

On the feast of SS. Peter and Paul 1941, the third pastor, the Rev. Eugene J. Luke came to the Village. Thru the wonderful foundation work accomplished by his predecessors and the ever-present push, determination, spirit of sacrifice and intellectual fore-

sight of the people, the new pastor found the sixteen year old parish in the full vigor and dreams of youth. As a result, soon the total parish debt was liquidated. Another half of a block of property was purchased. A new Convent and Rectory replaced the old makeshift buildings which were sold and moved off the premises. In this happy year of our diocese, the completion of St. Petronille's parish unit is being realized—the new Church and gymnasium.

All credit for these grand results within thirty years, next to God, does not go to the pastors and people. The Ven. School Sisters of St. Francis share a major part as do all the assistant priests—Fathers Francis A. West, Phillip Pahl, Sylvester Mulloy, now pastor at Kinsman, Frederick Golden, now pastor at Clifton and our present assistant Edmund J. Gregory.





*Rev. Mathias Kauth,  
Pastor*

*Rev. Justin V.  
Grigaitis, Ph.D.,  
Assistant*

## **ST. ALEXIS BENSENVILLE**

The Holy Sacrifice of the Mass was first celebrated in the Village Hall of Bensenville in 1925. Prior to this time, the Catholics of this area had to travel to the Church of St. Gertrude in Franklin Park.

In 1926, Cardinal Mundelein established the parish of St. Alexis under the able guidance of the Rev. A. J. Milcheski, that it might care for the Catholic population of Bensenville, Wood Dale, Itasca and Roselle, also with a chapel at Schiller Park as an additional station.

Rev. Edward Niess was sent to succeed Father Milcheski in 1932. This was in the heart of the depression, but instead of succumbing to the despair of those times, Father worked all the harder. For fifteen years, he labored patiently and diligently for his scattered flock.

In 1945, because of the increasing number of Catholics, the Archbishop severed Wood Dale, Itasca, and Roselle from Bensenville and made St. Alexis a separate parish.

In 1947, when the parish had liquidated its debt and a fund was in reservation for future development, the parish numbered only 180 families. At this time, His Eminence, Cardinal Stritch appointed Father Kauth to the pastorate of St. Alexis. Then fourteen acres were acquired for the building of a new church in the western section of the village. On a beautiful Sunday morning on July 26, 1949, Mass was celebrated for the first time in the combination church and school before a capacity congregation. Bishop McNamara blessed the school and, afterward, administered the Sacrament of Confirmation.

Since 1949, the parish has acquired a temporary home for the Sisters of St. Francis who teach at the school. It is comforting to note that in the parish which now totals five hundred families, 138 persons were baptized in 1954, whereas twenty-eight years ago there were only six.

The present assistant is Father Justin V. Grigaitis, Ph.D., who has served at St. Alexis since 1950.



*Rev. Paul P.  
Runowicz, Pastor*



*Rev. Nikodem  
Dubrowska, Assistant*



## **ST. THADDEUS JOLIET**

In behalf of the people of Polish descent, a committee was formed in 1926 to approach the Rev. Ignatius Mazurowski, pastor of Holy Cross Church, for aid in establishing a new parish. Father Mazurowski presented the plea of the people to the archdiocesan authorities, and permission was granted to erect a new parish.

The Rev. Stanislaus Chyla was sent as pastor of the new parish of St. Thaddeus on July 4, 1927. Property was purchased at the corner of Columbia street and Youngs Avenue for the new church. In February of 1928, the cornerstone was laid and the construction of St. Thaddeus Church begun. On Palm Sunday, 1928, the first Mass was celebrated in the new church. In September of the same year, the school opened its doors to some 500 pupils. The eight grades were given over to the guidance of the Felician Sisters.

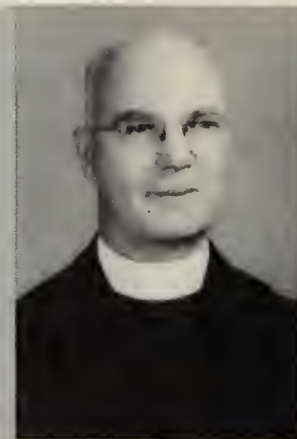
In 1933, Father Chyla was transferred and in his

place came the Rev. Joseph O. Karabasz. With untiring zeal he labored for the welfare of the parish for fourteen years.

In 1948 the Rev. Edward Schuster was appointed to the pastorate of St. Thaddeus. Though in ill health, he carried on the zealous work of his predecessors. In 1953 Father Schuster obtained permission from Bishop McNamara to erect a new convent for the Sisters, but before he was able to complete his plans, he passed to his eternal reward, on August 25, 1953. The Rev. Paul P. Runowicz was appointed as pastor in September of 1953, and the new Sister's Convent was completed. Serving with him is his capable assistant, the Rev. Nikodem Dubrowska, and together they serve the people of this parish.

Thomas Pajak and Frank Banach, who were among the original group that helped promote the establishment of St. Thaddeus, are at present the active trustees of the parish.





*Rev. Aloysius Stier,  
Pastor*

## **ST. IRENE WARRENVILLE**

It was on the 8th of May 1927 that the Reverend Bernard J. Schuette, pastor of Saints Peter and Paul Parish, Naperville, offered the first Holy Mass in Warrenville. This was the beginning of the newly established Mission dedicated to Saint Irene, Virgin and Martyr.

A small wooden structure was erected soon after, and served as a church for a short period of time.

In 1929 the Reverend Frank Schildgen was appointed pastor of Naperville, and under his guidance the present church was erected.

In July 1930 the Mission was made a Parish, and the Reverend Francis X. Harnischmacher was as-

signed as the first resident pastor of Warrenville. With a parish of 74 families, a debt of over \$14,000.00, and the depression on his hands the new pastor rented a nearby house, which served as living quarters until the rectory was built in 1939.

Father Harnischmacher was transferred to Saint Teresa Parish, Chicago, in June 1945, and the Reverend Aloysius Stier was assigned as the second pastor. In October 1951 ground was broken for the school, and the cornerstone was placed Sunday, April 27th, 1952. In September 1953 the dream of over 25 years was realized when the doors of St. Irene School were opened to the children, with the School Sisters of St. Francis teaching.



*Rev. John F. George,  
Assistant*



*Rev. Joseph F. Kilas,  
Assistant*



*Rev. James T. Farrell,  
Pastor*



## **ST. ISAAC JOGUES HINSDALE**

In June of 1930 His Eminence George Cardinal Mundelein appointed Reverend Thomas F. Tormey to establish the parish of St. Isaac Jogues in Hinsdale, to care for all the Catholic families of the Hinsdale and Clarendon Hills area.

By June 26, 1932, Father Tormey had acquired property and completed erection of a combination church and school, which was dedicated by Cardinal Mundelein, Archbishop of Chicago and staffed by Sisters of St. Joseph of LaGrange.

The new church and school brought many new Catholic families, and Father Tormey was given an assistant, Rev. Phillip Neenan, from 1936 to 1942. He was succeeded by Rev. Edward J. McGovern from 1942 to 1944.

In April of 1944, when Father Tormey was appointed pastor of Holy Cross Parish in Chicago, Rev. James T. Farrell—the present pastor—succeeded him at the Hinsdale parish. Father McGovern became a Navy Chaplain in 1944 and was replaced by Rev.

James J. Dicken.

In 1948 it pleased His Holiness Pope Pius XII to include DuPage County in the newly founded diocese of Joliet under the inspirational leadership of Bishop McNamara. Two years later, Rev. John B. Maguire was appointed assistant but became very ill and had to retire.

Need for more classrooms and a new church became evident in 1950. Under the direction of Bishop McNamara and the pastorate of Father Farrell, a new church was built and solemnly dedicated September 27, 1953. Work on a new addition to the school, a new convent, and a new rectory is near completion.

In June of 1953, Rev. John F. George was appointed assistant to replace Father Dicken, and in 1954, Rev. Joseph F. Kilas, newly ordained, was also appointed as an assistant. At the same time, Bishop McNamara separated the western section of the parish to form the new Notre Dame Parish in Clarendon Hills.





*Rev. Thomas  
Dennehy, Pastor*



*Rev. Michael  
Sawlewicz*

## **HOLY TRINITY WESTMONT**

The parish of Holy Trinity consists of the village of Westmont and its environs. It is situated between Hinsdale and Downers Grove. The history of Holy Trinity Parish is similar to that of many of the suburban parishes in the Chicago area. It was humble in origin with a struggling development and then saw a rapid growth.

Originally the parish of St. Joseph's in Downers Grove took in the territory as far east as West Hinsdale. Westmont was in this area. As the distances were great, the late pastor of St. Joseph's, the Reverend Eneas B. Goodwin, appealed in 1923 to the Archbishop of Chicago, George Cardinal Mundelein, to found a mission in Westmont. His hopes for the mission were not very sanguine and he did not expect a very great future for the little village.

The following is an excerpt from Father Goodwin's letter to the Cardinal:

"The village of Westmont was started about two years ago by the A. T. McIntosh Company. The Company appealed principally to the renting classes on the West Side of Chicago. Lots were offered at \$5.00 down and the balance on monthly payments.

A conglomeration of people responded. Rumanians, Syrians, French Canadians, Italians, Bohemians, Poles, some families of German and Irish descent, a few Brazilians, and many of American parentage; altogether about 1800 people (including children,

most of whom are under 12 years of age). All speak English. These people put up temporary buildings, even tents, where most of them are still living. Many are employed in the Western Electric shops and other places of employment in Chicago, and nearly all have not too much of this world's goods.

About a year and a half ago I began working regularly among them and can assure you they have kept me busy, especially in sick calls and in straightening out difficulties. I held Sunday School classes in the public school building and in the Methodist Church, or as it is called, the Community House. I registered about one hundred baptized families. Of these, only about thirty families attended Church. Here most of them work on their houses on Sunday.

The Methodist and Baptist preachers say religion is almost dead. It may be for them, but as for the Catholics I think it is not. What is needed is a place for them to meet. With the consent of the Chancery office, I have erected a small but sufficiently large building suitable for services, meetings, etc. The land was donated, and I am paying cash for the building. I believe that when services begin we shall get many of those who have been negligent. The building will be ready by Christmas, so I respectfully ask permission to say Mass there and give the people one Mass on Sundays and Holy days thereafter.

Owing to its location, the people realize that West-



*Holy Trinity School*

mont must always be a mission of Downers Grove. That is what they want it to be. With one Mass there, families may divide up and some go to Westmont while other members of the family go to Downers. Of course this will force me to secure the services of a priest to help on Sundays.

May I suggest a name for our chapel? To show that we are the Christian church may we call it Holy Trinity Chapel? If I were building a church I would like that name. However, it is for you to do the naming, and whatever name you may decide on will be satisfactory. But I would like your blessing on our work."

Respectfully,

Eneas B. Goodwin

The first Mass was offered in the parish at Christmas in the year 1923 and priests came from Downers Grove, aided by the Franciscan Fathers at Mayslake, to conduct services for the next fifteen years. Men's and women's organizations were formed immediately to help support the Chapel and many of the original members of these organizations are still active members of the Church. During the first years the men and women of the mission worked hard at various affairs always looking forward to the goal of a new and larger church.

The Reverend Cyril Meade succeeded Father Goodwin when the latter left to accept a teaching

post at Loyola University, a responsibility which he held 'til his death a few years ago.

In the spring of 1938 the late Cardinal Mundelein of Chicago appointed Reverend Ligouri Logsdon as the first resident pastor of Holy Trinity. After fourteen months Father Logsdon passed away. During his short regime, the property which is the site of the present church was purchased, and a building on the property was renovated for a rectory.

On August 1, 1939 the Reverend Daniel J. Stokes was appointed Pastor. In the summer of 1940, the present colonial style church was started and ready for services on Christmas day of that year. Father Stokes labored in the parish for the next six and a half years until he was promoted in January 1946 to the Pastorate of St. Barbara in Brookfield. During this time the parish had grown to the point where it numbered over 200 families and individual adults, making a total of over 1000 Communicants.

In January 1946 the Reverend Thomas Dennehy, the present pastor, was appointed to succeed Father Stokes. As the parish continued to grow and was reaching proportions that could hardly have been foreseen it became necessary for the pastor to purchase more property. The year 1949 saw the formation of the present diocese of Joliet, and soon after the installation of the first Bishop, Most Reverend Martin D. McNamara, he commissioned the Pastor





*Holy Trinity Rectory*

to build an eight room school and rectory and to convert a former rectory into a temporary convent. Thereupon, Edo J. Belli, an architect of Chicago, prominent in the field of contemporary institutional design, was secured.

Ground was broken for the new school on Lincoln's birthday of 1950. On Mother's Day of that year Bishop McNamara officiated at the ceremony of the laying of the cornerstone of the school. The motto on the cornerstone, "For our altars and our firesides," taken from an ancient Gaelic coat of arms, expresses the purpose of our Catholic schools to train children to love their religion and their country. The first classes were held in September with an enrollment of 154.

The school was formally dedicated by our Bishop in April 1951 which was also the occasion of the Silver Jubilee of the Pastor's ordination.

The new school is of modified colonial design in keeping with the existing church. At present the school is filled to capacity with 433 students. It is conducted by the Sisters of Christian Charity whose mother house is in Wilmette, Illinois. Our Sisters taught for many years the public school children of the parish, coming over weekly from their retreat

house in Clarendon Hills. For this reason they were chosen as the community to be the first teachers at Holy Trinity School.

The rectory was constructed shortly after the completion of the school. Although of modernistic design it also is in keeping with the other parish buildings.

The number of parishioners now exceeds six hundred families.

With regard to the history of the priests of the parish, the two former pastors have gone to their reward. The first and present assistant, Reverend Michael Sawlewicz was appointed in the fall of 1950. Born and ordained in Poland, he taught in government schools in the diocese of Vilno 'til the year 1939. While on a visit to this country, he was prevented from returning to his native land by the communist regime. He later served in various parishes in Chicago and the diocese of Joliet before his arrival in Westmont. The present pastor, the Reverend Thomas Dennehy, was born in Chicago, to which city his parents had immigrated from Ireland. He served in the parishes of St. Sabina, St. Columbkille, and St. Dorothy before his appointment as pastor of Holy Trinity.



**Fr. Denis Hall, O.F.M.**  
**Pastor**



## **ST. JUDE** **NEW LENNOX**

In 1933, the Ku Klux Klan burnt a large cross in New Lenox on property adjoining the house in which Father Roman Hasenstab, O.F.M., conducted religious instructions. This and other acts showed a strong anti-Catholic atmosphere in New Lenox. Nevertheless, Father Roman Hasenstab, pastor of St. Mary's, Mokena, made continual progress and on Christmas Day, 1934, New Lenox was blessed with the first Mass in its history. The house used for the first Mass was located on 4th Ave. and South Cedar Road.

In 1935 another old building was added to this property, and a complete remodeling project began. The work was completed in 1944, resulting in a small but very beautiful frame church.

Father Hasenstab, who did the pioneering work, was transferred in 1943 and Father Reynold Klaes, O.F.M., was assigned as pastor in July of that year. On May 27, 1947, this mission was granted official status of a parish by decree of the Sacred Congregation in Rome.

A building fund for the erection of a combination church and school was started, and in March, 1947, the architect's plans were ready. The new site was

chosen on Land Ave., immediately west of the village limits. Due to many difficulties the building was not ready for occupancy until 1950. Lack of funds forced the parish to stop building with the first story, and a temporary roof was put on. In January, 1950, the new building was ready for occupancy, and the first Mass was celebrated on January 7. The cost of the building, consisting of a large hall to be used as a church and five classrooms, was \$89,400. The founding of St. Jude's and all the spiritual guidance has been under the solicitious care of the Friars of St. Francis. Father Denis Hall, O.F.M., is the present pastor.

In September, 1950, two sisters of the Immaculate Heart from Tucson, Arizona, and one lay teacher opened the school of 8 grades in three classrooms. They were Sister Mary Rose, C.M.F., Sister Eileen Frances, C.M.F., and Miss Suzanne Paar. The enrollment was 85. On October 29, Bishop McNamara blessed the new building and administered Confirmation. In twenty years the parish has grown from about 20 families to 275 and the school enrollment is now 165.





*Rev. Joseph E. Wagner,  
Pastor*



*Rev. William Koch,  
Assistant*

## **HOLY GHOST WOOD DALE**

The Holy Ghost parish of Wood Dale, Ill., was first established as a mission out-station under the supervision of the Fathers from St. Alexius Church, Bensenville. The first Mass to be celebrated in this new parish was said by Father Niess, pastor of the Bensenville church, on March 26, 1944.

The influence of the parish's namesake, the Holy Spirit, was soon noticed. Through His divine guidance, the Wood Dale mission was able to move its present church structure to the grounds it now occupies. This task was completed on July 6, 1945, only one year after its establishment.

The growth of the mission station was so rapid and spontaneous that within one year, on November 1, 1946, Wood Dale became the location of the Holy Ghost parish. The church itself was blessed by His Eminence, Cardinal Stritch on June 1, 1947.

The first pastor of Holy Ghost parish, Rev. Joseph E. Wagner, and his first assistant, Rev. William L.

Koch, both realize the indispensable position held by a Catholic school system for developing not only solid and constant members of Our Lord's Mystical Body, the Church, but also sturdy citizens of our nation. It was Father Wagner's fervent wish to build a parish school as soon as possible. As in so many other instances in the growth of this parish, the influence of the Holy Spirit once more was easily recognizable. Rapidly, Father Wagner found the means to begin work on his dream. In the spring of 1948, a four-room school was built. On the occasion of its completion, the new structure was dedicated by Bishop McNamara, in October of 1949. Recently it was found necessary to supplement the existing building with a five-room addition, which was completed in the year 1953.

The Holy Ghost parish school is, indeed, fortunate to obtain the services of the School Sisters of St. Francis, seven of whom teach in this school.



*Rev. Paul F. Dinan,  
Pastor*



## **ST. TERESA OF THE CHILD JESUS KANKAKEE**

Another of Bishop McNamara's accomplishments is the parish of St. Teresa of the Child Jesus, which is located in Marycrest on the east side of Kankakee, Illinois. The Bishop dedicated both the church and school on October 12, 1949. The buildings and the surrounding property, of which St. Teresa's consists, were the gifts of Mr. Romy Hammes, K.C.S.G.

The new church blends a little of the Greek with old American architecture. The front features graceful Corinthian style unfluted columns supporting a semi-circular roof, which covers the porch and also the entrance.

The statue of St. Teresa can be plainly seen in a niche directly above the front entrance. Spotlights on the corners of the roof illumine the crucifix and steeple in the evening so that they can be seen at quite a distance from the church. The school, staffed by the Sisters of St. Francis, now has 300 children

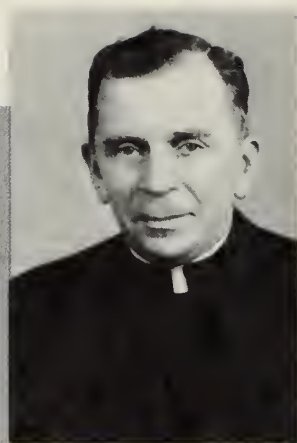
attending. The Rt. Rev. Msgr. Emile J. Cousineau, V.F., was the administrator of the new parish until his transfer to St. Rose Church, Kankakee, June 1, 1954. The Rev. Paul F. Dinan, recently from St. Mary's, Paxton, was then appointed first pastor to fill the vacancy left by Msgr. Cousineau. Father Dinan is well remembered at St. Mary's for such work as the building of the parish hall there in 1952, and for his care of St. Joseph, Loda, which didn't have enough families in the parish to justify the keeping of a resident pastor.

Although short in actual history, the love, labors and sacrifice, and necessary cooperation of both pastors and flock have left a record of active and firmly imbued faith. A faith which not only was necessary for successful launching of the parish but is necessary for its continued growth and expansion both in numbers and in a fervent and lasting charity.





*Rev. Roger Kaffer,  
Assistant*



*Rev. Gordon Michels,  
Pastor*

## **ST. PAUL THE APOSTLE JOLIET**

On the feast of St. Matthew the Apostle, 1950, a new parish was canonically erected and dedicated to another Apostle and Proto-missioner of Christianity, St. Paul. In the four brief years of its history, the zealous fire and evangelizing spirit has already made itself felt. For, at its inception, St. Paul's Parish numbered two-hundred fifty families, but since then it has enjoyed a 35 per cent increase so that it now numbers three-hundred eighty-five families. This new parish was erected to relieve the crowded conditions that existed at St. Patrick's and St. Raymond's on the west side of Joliet. Its boundaries were defined as follows: Black Road on the North; Morgan Street on the South; Catherine and Reed Streets on the East; and the County Line on the West. This tremendous task of organizing a new parish was placed on the shoulders of Father Gordon Michels, Pastor of St. Mary's Church, Minooka. The proof of his capabilities, devoted endeavors, and sacrifices lies in the

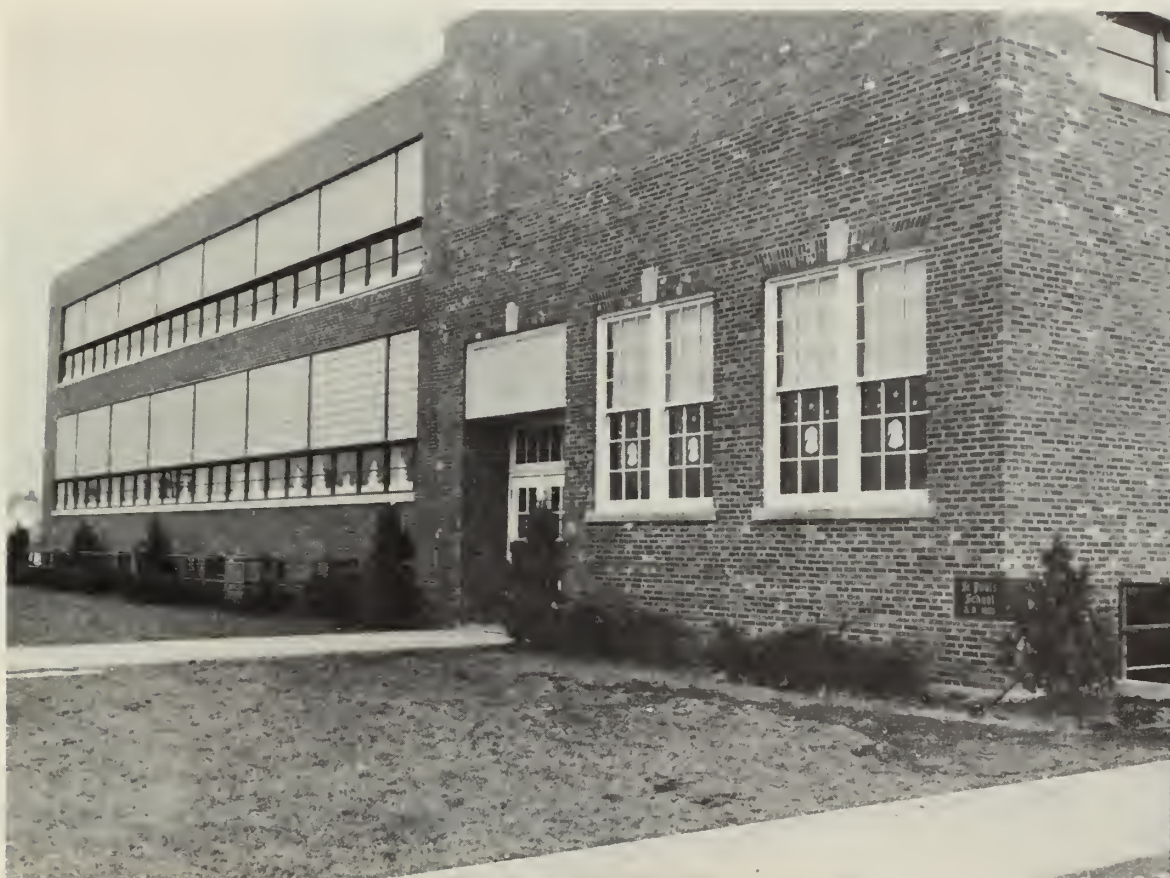
success that exists today at St. Paul's.

The actual inauguration of the parish took place on Sunday, October 11, 1950. On that important day, these families attended the Mass in honor of the Maternity of the Blessed Virgin Mary. How fitting that Christ should be brought down to earth for the first time at St. Paul's on the feast of the Divine Motherhood. As the parish then had no church of its own, this Mass was celebrated at the Pershing Public School.

During the first year, priests and parishioners spent many hours in labor and sacrifice for the desired combination church and school building. This building was completed by September 1, 1951, and the first Mass was said there the following day.

On September 5, classes began for the first six grades in the school. The guidance and instruction of these young Christians has been entrusted to the Franciscan Sisters.

St. Paul the Apostle  
Combination School and Church



On October 28, His Excellency, Bishop McNamara dedicated the new combination building.

The example of St. Paul in laborings often has been caught in high degree by the men of St. Paul's Parish. On May 15, 1952, ground was broken for a new rectory, which was built entirely by the men. Moreover, they worked on additions to the Sisters' Convent. By late spring of the next year the work was finished.

Bishop McNamara came again on April 19, 1953, to preside at a triple celebration. On that day the Holy Spirit which had so moved St. Paul came to Christ's little ones in the first Confirmation at the new parish. The Bishop then blessed the rectory, and joined in the festivities congratulating the pastor on his Silver Jubilee of Ordination.

The constant growth in the enrollment of the

school children made an addition imperative. So in February of 1954, another phase of construction began at St. Paul's. It was finished in early fall.

In June, Father Roger Kaffer was assigned as the first assistant at St. Paul's. Until this time, Father Harold Draught, O.Carm., had been assisting the pastor on Sundays.

At present St. Paul's consists of a church with a capacity of five hundred and a ten room school. Seven of the classrooms are being used to accommodate 303 pupils, with six Sisters and one lay teacher in charge.

Though it is but four years old, the progress that has been made in St. Paul's, Joliet, is astonishing. Such is the interest and active spirit of sacrifice in both priests and parishioners that one can only look for its source in their patron, the Apostle of the Gentiles, St. Paul.





*Very Rev. Msgr. Joseph A. Wagner,  
Pastor*

## **ST. WALTER'S ROSELLE**

In St. Walter's Church, Roselle, five Masses are said every Sunday for the 225 families in the parish. 143 pupils attend the parochial school. But this was not always the case. Only nine years ago the first Mass was offered in Roselle, and only six years ago St. Walter's was made a parish.

After three years as a mission station dependent on Holy Ghost Church of Wood Dale, St. Walter's began functioning as a separate parish.

On June 9, 1949, Bishop McNamara raised St. Walter's from a mission station to a parish, and appointed Rev. Joseph A. Wagner, who had been residing at the mission station, as pastor.

The children attended school at the Holy Ghost parish for three years, then at St. Isidore's for a year, until finally in 1952, St. Walter's had its own school. The School Sisters of St. Francis opened classes in September of that year. Only two years later there were 143 pupils attending school.

In June of 1950, St. Walter's pledged \$10,000 to the building of the Cathedral at Joliet. Considering that as a parish it was only a year old and had many problems of its own, one sees in this pledge the interest of the parishioners in the advancement of the diocese. This is in addition to \$50,000 subscribed to their own building fund. In the parish itself a Women's Club, a Holy Name Society, and a Youth Club are active.

In July of 1950, St. Walter's received a special privilege when the pastor, Rev. Joseph A. Wagner, was made a Papal Chamberlain with the title of Very Reverend Monsignor.

The parish owns five acres of land, providing ample playground space, parking space, and room for future expansion. All this has been accomplished by the blessings of Almighty God, the encouragement of the Bishop, and the prayers and sacrifice of the Sisters, parishioners, and friends.



*Rev. Basil J. Doyle,  
Pastor*



## **ST. MARTIN OF TOURS KANKAKEE**

September 8, 1950, marks the erection of the first of the many new parishes to be canonically established by Bishop McNamara as Bishop of the new Diocese of Joliet. Under the patronage of St. Martin of Tours this parish was established to serve the people of south and west Kankakee. The Rev. Basil J. Doyle was transferred from St. Peter's Parish of Piper City to become its first pastor.

The Civic Auditorium of the Small Memorial Park was destined to be the place of Sunday worship for the first fourteen months of the new parish. The first Masses were offered there on Sunday, October 1, 1950. Daily Mass was offered in the rectory, just south of the auditorium. The north front room of the rectory was converted into a Blessed Sacrament Chapel and confessions were heard there.

The ground breaking for a combination church and school building took place on Sunday, March 4, 1951. The building was unfinished in September but school began with class rooms in the homes of

Joseph Boudreau, Paul Brule and Joseph Knaga. Sisters Lydia, Catherine, Madeline and Therese of the Congregation of Notre Dame were in charge. Eighty-seven children were enrolled.

On Sunday, December 2, 1951, the first Mass was offered in the new building and during the following week the class rooms were occupied.

On February 3, 1952, four Masses were scheduled with Fathers from the Institute of Charity at Seymour assisting on Saturday and Sunday.

Bishop McNamara dedicated the combination building on June 15, 1952.

The parish has shown a steady growth and today numbers 265 children in its school with four sisters of Notre Dame and one lay teacher. About three hundred families are enrolled in the parish.

With such good will, interest, and sacrifice as has already been witnessed in its brief history, St. Martin of Tours is assured of a bright future.





## ST. STEPHEN'S JOLIET

*Rev. Joseph Adam,  
Pastor*

Prior to 1951, the Hungarian Catholics were taken care of by the Carmelite Fathers of St. Mary's Parish, Joliet. Hungarian speaking priests were invited to hear confessions of the people two or three times a year. The Hungarian Catholics owned a building on the corner of Collins Street and Irving Street in Joliet where Mass was said daily until it burned down on the morning of December 31, 1948.

St. Stephen's Church, named after the first king of Hungary, was organized to benefit the Catholics in the Diocese of Joliet who speak Hungarian. The church structure is an old non-Catholic frame church, which is located at the corner of Youngs Avenue and Ohio Street. It was purchased early in 1950, and remodeling to make it suitable for a Catholic church was begun in the fall of the same year. The church was dedicated by Bishop McNamara on Sunday, June 24, 1951.

The new six room rectory was built for the most part by the men of St. Stephen's and was blessed by

Bishop McNamara on October 19, 1952.

Looking at the front facade of St. Stephen's Church, one is reminded of early small parish life in America. The high pitched shingle roof of three different levels, the white painted wood sideboards covering a wood frame construction, the stone block foundation, and the unpretentious windows, all add a simple dignity to the edifice. Its clean and simple lines indicate the sincere and humble devotion of its parishioners.

The Reverend Joseph L. Adam was appointed the first pastor of St. Stephen's on May 23, 1951. He was formerly an assistant to the Right Reverend Monsignor Ernest E. Horvath of Our Lady of Hungary Church, Chicago.

The parishioners of St. Stephen's, despite the change of continent and country, have kept gloriously the faith that their first king instilled in the hearts of their ancestors.



*Rev. John W. Desmond,  
Pastor*

## ST. MARY MAGDALENE JOLIET

When the growing population on the east side of Joliet showed such large numbers in a preliminary survey within the area, the Diocese decided to establish a new parish. On June 18th, 1953, Saint Mary Magdalene Parish was formally announced and, two days later, the first pastor, Reverend John W. Desmond, was appointed to minister to the spiritual needs of 440 families in the Ingalls Park section of Joliet.

The first Mass was celebrated in the Culbertson Public School, at the corner of Washington and Briggs Streets, on June 28th. Immediately, plans were formulated and approved by Bishop McNamara for a combination church and school of modern design, the church to seat five hundred people and an eight room school to take care of the present needs with provision for expansion.

Ground was broken for the new building on August 30th, and the actual construction began on September 8th. By November 30th the cornerstone

had been laid. Within seven months from the start of construction, Mass was celebrated in the new church on Easter Sunday, April 18th. With the church completed, work on the school was now speeded up to make ready for the Fall term. In June, a convent was purchased at the corner of Washington and Hebbard Streets to provide for the Sister Servants of the Holy Heart of Mary who arrived in August to staff the new school. The school itself was completed and furnished by early August and, on the 29th of the same month, Bishop McNamara dedicated the building, exactly one year from the ground breaking ceremony.

The response of the parishioners to the founding of St. Mary Magdalene's is amply demonstrated by the fact that school registration for the second year had to begin within two months of the opening of the first year. St. Mary Magdalene's stands as one more of the accomplishments in the foresighted building program of Bishop McNamara.





*Rev. John F. Podesta,  
Pastor*



*Rev. Arthur J. Maher,  
Assistant*

## VISITATION ELMHURST

A new parish was needed. The Catholics of South Elmhurst were obliged to fulfill their religious duties by seeking pastoral guidance either in the Immaculate Conception parish in Elmhurst or at St. Isaac Jogues parish in Hinsdale. These conditions were fully realized by the discerning pastors and diocesan officials acquainted with that area. The response came when Bishop McNamara canonically erected a new parish in Elmhurst on June 11, 1953. As Christ once came to Elizabeth in the womb of the Virgin Mary, so He was about to come to the faithful in Elmhurst in the tabernacle of Visitation parish. A joyful mystery is to be relived.

Bishop McNamara now had to appoint a pastor to the new parish, one who would be adept at handling the manifold difficulties of establishing a parish. The priest selected for this great task was Rev. John

F. Podesta, assigned on June 27, 1953. The new pastor went to work immediately. He said his first Mass as pastor of the Visitation parish in the gymnasium of the Yorkfield Public School on the summer morning of June 28, 1953. An ideal site for the parish was sought. Finally a nine acre tract of land was purchased on York Road at Madison in Elmhurst.

Construction was the main part of the work now. In July of 1953 the ground was broken for the small edifice which would serve the dual purpose of a church and a hall. After a swift but adequate construction job the new building was completed in December, 1953. On the midnight of Christmas Day, 1953, Christ was for the first time consecrated, offered and received by the pastor and his flock in the new Visitation Church.



**Visitation School**

On September 11, 1953, work began on the second building. This structure, in some ways the more important of the two, was the parish school. Work had to be rushed to meet the coming school year in September of 1954. The Bishop had made arrangements with Mother M. Gerald, O.P., for staffing the new school with the able Dominican Sisters from Adrian, Michigan. This was one of the brightest spots on the horizon of the new parish, since any school under the direction of the Adrian Dominicans would be assured of a great future. The Sisters were to live in a convent which was to be contained within the school building itself. Since the schedule of the construction was maintained, the Sisters moved into their quarters in August and two hundred and seventy-five pupils began their studies in September.

In the meantime, Rev. Arthur J. Maher, a newly ordained priest from St. Mary of the Lake Seminary in Mundelein, Illinois, became the first curate at Visitation parish. About the same time an additional wing was built onto the school. For the near future it will serve as a church with a seating capacity of over five hundred; later on it will provide space for six classrooms. With the completion of this building the parish enjoyed another first Mass on a Christmas morning. This time it was on Christmas Day, 1954.

Any history of this parish, however brief, would not be complete without a word of tribute to its parishioners for the loyal and enthusiastic cooperation with which they have supported the pastor in all the problems which accompany the organization of a new parish. God bless them all!





*Rev. Felix Matasso,  
Pastor*

## ST. ANNE JOLIET

St. Anne's Church had its foundation as a mission of St. Mary's Nativity in Joliet. Its history dates back to 1938 when the first CYO summer camp was held. It was during this summer that it was discovered that there were over four hundred Catholic children in the district without spiritual care or proper educational facilities. In addition the faithful were a substantial distance from the church and, as gas rationing was in effect, still more obstacles arose. It was indeed a difficult proposition to attend the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass on Sundays and Holy days. And so it was that after due consideration the Chancery granted the request to have Mass celebrated in the Chaney School. The first Mass was celebrated on November 15, 1942.

At this time the United States was in the midst of World War II. Stringent regulations on building materials, made necessary by the war effort, prevented the immediate construction of a church. Nevertheless the parishioners' desire for a new church

remained undaunted. This dream, nurtured by countless sacrifices, assumed material form at last, on May 2, 1948. For on that day the new church was solemnly dedicated by His Eminence, Cardinal Stritch, in the presence of the faithful and their priest.

Gradually the number of souls in St. Anne's began to increase. This constant influx of families large and small, coupled with the fervent enthusiasm of the people to have their own parish, was responsible for Bishop McNamara's decision to elevate St. Anne's Mission to the status of a parish in June of 1953. He appointed the Reverend Felix Matasso to be the first resident pastor.

During his brief pastorate, Father Matasso has completed the renovation of the church and purchased a new rectory.

With a continuation of the enthusiasm, interest and conscientiousness exhibited by the priests and faithful in the past, there appears a bright future on the horizon for St. Anne's parish.



**Rev. Peter Seidl,  
Pastor**

## **ST. JUDE JOLIET**

St. Jude's Church is one of the new parishes in the expanding diocese of Joliet. In its short history, St. Jude's has made great progress.

On Monday, April 26, 1954, Right Reverend Romeo R. Blanchette, Chancellor of the Joliet Diocese, blessed the site which was donated in a spirit of Christian generosity by Mr. Romy Hammes, K.C.S.G., and broke ground for the combination church-school building to be erected in the Marycrest subdivision. Under the direction of T. P. Collins and Son, the building was ready for occupancy in September of that year. Through the benevolence of Mr. Hammes, the use of two houses was given to provide for the rectory and convent.

On August 13th, Reverend Peter Seidl was appointed pastor of the newly erected St. Jude's. The first Mass was said in the church on September 5. Three days later, the school was opened for children

ranging from the first to the fifth grades. Sister Mary Arthur was appointed superior and principal and taught the third, fourth, and fifth grades. Sister Mary Eleanor assisted her, teaching the first and second grades. On September 13th, the kindergarten was opened with Mrs. A. C. Hoyt as teacher. One hundred and two students were enrolled in the school, two thirds of whom were in kindergarten or first grade. Toward the end of September the tiny community of nuns increased by fifty-percent with the addition of Sister Rosalinda as house Sister.

On January 1, 1955, there were 578 souls in the parish, an increase of almost one hundred in the first four months of its existence. The pastor and Sisters have accomplished much in a short time and are looking forward hopefully to the bright future of St. Jude's.





**Rev. Thomas E.  
Doherty, Pastor**

## **NOTRE DAME CLARENDON HILLS**

The parish of Notre Dame was canonically erected by Bishop McNamara on June 1, 1954. It was formed from portions of St. Isaac Jogues, Hinsdale, and Holy Trinity, Westmont.

Father T. E. Doherty was appointed the first pastor. He celebrated the first Mass on Sunday, June 6, in the little chapel on South Prospect Avenue. This chapel has served the faithful souls of Clarendon Hills for the past eighteen years. It was established under the direction of Fathers Thomas Tormey and Philip Neehnan. In recent years it has been staffed by Franciscan Fathers, notably Father Harold, O.F.M., under the supervision of Father James Farrell of Hinsdale.

Anticipating the needs of this young parish, Bishop McNamara purchased the five acre tract on the corner of Norfolk and Chicago from the Sisters of Christian Charity. The Sisters had formerly conducted the retreat house of Our Lady of Providence on this property. The house is a beautiful, spacious home, styled in the turn-of-the-century architecture.

It was once known as the Muldaugh Mansion. Still substantial, it will serve as the convent for the devoted Sisters of Christian Charity who will teach in the Notre Dame school when it is completed.

On September 12, 1954, the loyal congregation and their pastor held an informal ground breaking ceremony to inaugurate construction on the new church. Construction began immediately, with hopes of completion by Easter, 1955. This new house of God is done in contemporary style of architecture and will seat five hundred, exclusive of the choir loft.

In October, the men of the parish conducted a subscription campaign which resulted in pledges amounting to \$120,000. This constituted an outstanding demonstration of the spirit of sacrifice in Notre Dame's four hundred and fifty families.

Future plans call for a school which, together with the church, convent, and rectory now in use, will adequately serve the spiritual needs of the parishioners for many years to come.



**Rev. Edmund V.  
O'Neill, Pastor**



## **ST. PIUS X SOUTH LOMBARD**

It was nine below zero and roads were iced like a sheet of glass on Sunday, January 30, 1955, when pioneer parishioners joined Father Edmund V. O'Neill in offering the first Mass in St. Pius X parish. The scene was Villa Park Junior High School, and actually there were four Masses, 8, 9, 10, and 11 o'clock—the last two being said by Father Arthur Kiernan, Rector of Maryknoll Seminary.

The new parish, serving some 400 families and the most recent creation in Bishop McNamara's far-sighted program of expansion, was established on Dec. 28, 1954, when Father O'Neill, then pastor of Gibson City, was appointed first pastor.

Aurora & Elgin railroad tracks play a major role in determining boundaries of the parish. The boundaries include: North—south side of C.A.&E. tracks from Grace to Addison; East—west side of Addison from C.A.&E. tracks to Madison, then west side of Ardmore from Madison to Jackson, then west side of Route 83 from extension of Jackson south to Butterfield; South—north side of Butterfield from Route

83 to Highland; West—east side of Grace from C.A.&E. tracks to Madison, then east side of Hammerschmidt from Madison to Roosevelt, then the east side of Highland from Roosevelt to Butterfield.

Father O'Neill, veteran of four years in Army Chaplain Corps, has served as assistant at Holy Trinity, Bloomington, and Immaculate Conception, Streator, as administrator at St. Patrick's, Elkhart, and as pastor at St. Joseph's, Loda, and Our Lady of Lourdes, Gibson City. He is now residing at 732 Fairfield while readying plans for a church and school plant to be built at the east corner of Meyers Road and Madison. Tentative plans call for the school to open in September, 1956.

Meanwhile, other "firsts" include: First Baptisms on Feb. 6, 1955, Susan Holden, Susan Anne Berkshire, and Christine Louise Wisner; First Marriage on Feb. 12, Charles W. Fruehe and Agnes P. Hilla; First Social Event on March 17, St. Patrick's Day parish party at Glendale Country Club.







**religious orders**

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**and communities  
in our diocese**







## **CHRIST THE KING THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY WEST CHICAGO**

This most recent of Franciscan educational institutions within the confines of the Joliet diocese is in the process of construction and will be completed by September, 1955. A four-year theological course of studies will then be conducted for their own students by the Franciscan Fathers of the Assumption of the B.V.M. Province, whose headquarters are located at Pulaski, Wis. Christ the King seminary is located near the intersection of Highways 64 and 59 in Du Page county.

Ground-breaking and blessing ceremonies for the Franciscan seminary took place June 15, 1954. It is being built in the traditional Franciscan, Spanish style of architecture and will house 15 faculty members, 15 lay brothers, and 80 student-theologians.

A unique feature in the history of the Assumption Province is that its founder was a lay brother. Brother Augustine Zeytz, O.F.M., whose dream was to found a Polish Franciscan monastery in the U.S., received a 120-acre land grant from John J. Hof, a non-Catholic land agent, at Pulaski, Wis. and the first Polish Franciscan monastery was canonically established there April 19, 1887. A year later, three Franciscan

priests of Polish origin came from various parts of Europe to aid Brother Augustine in caring for the spiritual needs of the Catholic Polish immigrant.

Today, the Fathers have two minor seminaries at Sturtevant, Wis. and Watkins Glen, N.Y., a novitiate at Lake Geneva, Wis., a college at Burlington, Wis., and an overcrowded theological seminary at Cedar Lake (formerly at Green Bay, Wis.), Ind. They also operate a retreat house at Cedar Lake and mission homes at Ben Avon, Pa., Toledo, O., Saginaw and Grand Rapids, Mich., and Canton, Mass. Eight parishes in the states of Wisconsin and Michigan and fourteen chaplaincies are in their charge. Since 1949, Fathers of the Assumption Province have been working in the Negro mission fields at Greenwood and Indianola, Miss. and have gone beyond the boundaries of the U.S. into the Philippine Islands in November, 1952, to care for the spiritual and educational needs of the Filipinos at Christ the King College, Calbayog, on the island of Samar.

According to 1954 statistics, the Assumption Province is composed of 414 members: 166 priests, 97 student-clerics, and 151 lay brothers and tertiaries.





*Main Hall*

## ST. PROCOPIUS ABBEY LISLE



*Rt. Rev. Ambrose  
Ondrak, O.S.B.  
Abbot and President  
of the School*



*Very Rev. Alexius  
Machacek, O.S.B.  
Rector of Seminary*



*Abbot Nepomucene*

St. Procopius is the name of the Benedictine community on College Road near Maple Avenue in Lisle. It is a town within a town — with an abbey, a major seminary, a college and an academy. It all started when on March 2, 1885, a group of Benedictines set up a priory at 18th and Allport Streets in Chicago. The group consisted of Fathers Nepomucene Jaeger, Wenceslaus Kocarnik, and Sigismund Singer. They had been sent from St. Vincent's Abbey in Latrobe, Pennsylvania, with the mission of working among the Czech people in Chicago, for many of these people were in danger of falling away from the Church. The pioneers were immediately followed by four others and then the community started to work. Besides parish and mission work, the first undertaking of the community was the publishing of Catholic newspapers and magazines in the Czech language. Until then the only papers in the Czech

language were some radical anti-Catholic newspapers which were poisoning the minds of many Czech people against the Church and were the cause of many apostasies. The Bohemian Benedictine Press was established to oppose these anti-Catholic papers.

In 1894, the Holy See raised the small house from the status of a priory dependent on St. Vincent's Abbey to the status of a separate abbey. The Rt. Rev. Nepomucene Jaeger, O.S.B., was the first abbot. In 1914 the abbey was moved to its present site at Lisle and five years later the Rt. Rev. Valentine Kohlbeck, O.S.B., was elected abbot. The third abbot was the Rt. Rev. Procopius Neuzil, O.S.B., who was succeeded in 1946 by the Rt. Rev. Ambrose Ondrak, O.S.B.

From the little priory with seven members, the community has grown into an independent abbey



Rev. Thomas Havlik,  
O.S.B.



Abbot Valentine

Abbot Procopius

with one hundred and sixty-one members. St. Procopius Abbey is the fourth largest among the sixteen abbeys in the United States.

Besides founding many parishes in the Chicago area and elsewhere, St. Procopius started St. Joseph's Orphanage in Lisle in 1898, and in 1929 it established St. Andrew's Abbey in Cleveland. More recent foundations by St. Procopius have been those of the Benedictine Chinese Missions and of Holy Trinity Priory in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania — a monastery for the Ruthenian monks of the Byzantine rite. As part of the Russian apostolate entrusted to the abbey by Pope Pius XI, a monastery for the Russians of the Byzantine rite will soon be founded.

In 1887, only three years after the abbey was established, the Benedictine group began a high school for boys in Chicago. The school was transferred to Lisle in 1901 and college courses were also offered. St. Procopius College and Academy,

Gymnasium



Jaeger Hall, residence building



Science Hall



with the Rev. Thomas Havlik, O.S.B., as rector, has an enrollment of 400 boarders and day students.

The four-year college of liberal arts and sciences now offers pre-medical, pre-dental, pre-law, and pre-engineering courses and full courses in education, chemistry, physics, mathematics and social sciences. Within the past year, St. Procopius College entered into a contract with the United States Atomic Energy Commission to further and intensify the research program in nuclear instrumentation conducted by the school.

St. Procopius Seminary, begun in 1914 for Benedictine and secular priests, had also for many years trained priests of the Byzantine rite for the Greek Rite Diocese of Pittsburgh. Now, most of the fifty-two major seminarians are studying for the Diocese of Joliet. The Very Rev. Alexius Machacek, O.S.B., is rector of the seminary.





## **ST. JOSEPH'S BOHEMIAN ORPHANAGE LISLE**

About twenty-five miles west of Chicago, on the route of the Burlington railroad, is located St. Joseph's Bohemian Orphanage, a large brick building situated in the midst of a truly serene countryside. This institution was established in the year 1899 by the Benedictine Fathers of St. Procopius Abbey, Lisle, Illinois. Because of a lack of funds and land, the infancy of St. Joseph's was by no means without a struggle for survival. Fortunately one hundred and fifty acres of the Benedictine College campus in Lisle, with all the buildings on that land, could be turned over for the purpose of an orphanage. The school was at once placed under the able guidance of the Sisters of St. Benedict.

An appeal, which brought a generous response from Bohemian Catholics throughout America, was made through three Bohemian Catholic publications which enjoyed wide circulation in this country. In 1910, forty-three acres of land were purchased and

on September 28 of that same year, Rt. Rev. John M. Jaeger, O.S.B., Abbot of St. Procopius, laid the cornerstone of a new four-story brick structure.

The Benedictines directed and financed the orphanage until the home was given over to the Archdiocese of Chicago in 1911. Today, as has been the long established custom, the operating deficits and direct supervision of St. Joseph's are still handled by the Chicago Archdiocese through its Catholic Charities. However, St. Joseph's is situated in the Diocese of Joliet under the spiritual leadership of its Bishop.

St. Joseph's now has an enrollment of one hundred and ninety-eight children from the age of two to eighteen years and has a total capacity for two hundred and sixty. Among the important works, a manual training school is provided for boys and an industrial school for girls. The staff at present consists of three Benedictine priests and twenty-four Sisters.



## JOLIET CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL JOLIET

Joliet Catholic High School at Broadway and Jefferson stands on the spot where the old St. Patrick's Church was established in 1838. The parish school was built in 1896 and the new rectory about 1915. When the new church was built in 1918 on Marion Street, the Christian Brothers opened a boys' high school in the old school building and named it De La Salle. The first class had an enrollment of 45. A new school was dedicated on May 16, 1927.

By winning the National Catholic Basketball Tournament at Loyola, Chicago, in 1926 and again in 1927, De La Salle came into national acclaim and—along with several other national winners in sports and music from Joliet—helped give the city its title "City of Champions."

In August, 1933, the Carmelite Order purchased the school and changed the name to Joliet Catholic. The first faculty of nine priests and five brothers was headed by Father Matthew T. O'Neill, O.Carm. The

enrollment was 354. When Father Matthew was appointed to the International Carmelite House in Rome in 1935, Father Bonaventure J. Gilmore, O.Carm., became principal. Under Father Bonaventure, the technical courses were added through the purchase of tools and machinery valued at \$100,000. When Father Bonaventure became principal of Salpoint High in Tucson, Arizona, in 1951, Father Lucian T. Casey, O.Carm., succeeded him.

During the past year the old building and the faculty house have been dismantled and work is in progress on new improvements. On December 26, 1954, the ground breaking ceremony for a million dollar addition was held. Towards this work the Diocesan School Fund has contributed \$200,000.

The present enrollment is 617. The faculty consists of 16 priests, 4 brothers, and 7 lay teachers. The superior of the St. Elias Priory is the Rev. Edgar R. Noonan, O.Carm.





## **ST. JOSEPH'S SEMINARY**

### **WESTMONT**

Saint Joseph's Seminary, Westmont, Illinois, is the preparatory seminary of the Franciscan Province of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus. As such, it comprises four years of high school and two years of junior college as the first steps along the way to the priesthood within the Franciscan Order.

Originally the seminary was located in Teutopolis, Illinois, where it was founded shortly after the Franciscan Fathers had come to this country in 1858 from the Mother Province of the Holy Cross in Germany. At first, the major seminary of the Province was united with the minor seminary in the one institution at Teutopolis; but already in 1865 the major seminary was transferred elsewhere.

For a number of years the minor seminary included in its curriculum also a commercial course of studies which was open to students other than those aspiring to the priesthood. But by 1898, the number of stu-

dents preparing for the priesthood in the Franciscan Order had grown so considerably that the commercial course was abandoned and the seminary was established exclusively as the preparatory seminary for aspirants to the Order in the Province of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus.

During the early 1920's, the ever-increasing number of aspirants to the Order outgrew the accommodations at Teutopolis. Consequently, a new seminary building was erected at Westmont, Illinois, and the first school year was opened in September of 1927. The seminary is now in its ninety-third academic year since it first opened on September 16, 1862.

It stands at the portals of that path towards ordination whence come the numerous sons of Assisi who will be the chaplains, the pastors, the preachers and the missionaries of tomorrow.



## THE MARIAN FATHERS CLARENDON HILLS

In 1913, two hundred and forty years after the founding of the Marian Fathers in seventeenth century Europe, the renovator and two other priests journeyed from Rome to Chicago in order to establish the Congregation in America. Ten years after the arrival of these Marians, a two hundred and twenty-seven acre tract of land was acquired at Clarendon Hills for the purpose of establishing an educational institute.

The training of the Marians takes place in the Joliet Diocese at the Novitiate and the Major Seminary, the cradle of Marian education, located at Clarendon Hills. The high school and the college departments were transferred to Marianapolis in Thompson, Connecticut, to allow for an expansion of the Theological curriculum.

The Congregation of Marian Fathers is dedicated to the spreading of devotion to the Immaculate Mother of God. Its principal goals are: a) to promote the education of the masses; establish and conduct schools, publish and disseminate Catholic literature; b) to preach the Gospel, to catechize, es-

pecially the neglected populace, to conduct and preach missions among Catholics and non-Catholics, and to aid the diocesan clergy in their pastoral work; c) to carry on social work, organize circles and societies, both for the young and for adults. The Congregation of Marian Fathers spreads in a special way devotion to the Immaculate Conception, the Holy Eucharist, the Sacred Heart of Jesus. It also has among its activities to aid the poor souls in purgatory, especially the souls of soldiers who gave their lives in battle.

For the past thirty-five years, the Marian Fathers have been active, not only in the immediate field of education, but also in the apostolate of the Catholic Press. Several hundred thousand books and pamphlets have come from their presses in Chicago.

Thus after twenty years of patient toil and sacrifice, sorrow and pleasure, success and failure in this country, their own seminary was established at Hinsdale. Since its foundation in 1934, it has sent about forty priests out into the fields of labors.





## **ST. FRANCIS RETREAT HOUSE HINSDALE**

St. Francis Retreat is conducted by the Franciscan Fathers of the Sacred Heart Province, the headquarters of which are located at St. Louis, Mo. It was founded in 1925, when the widow and son of Francis Peabody, a fuel magnate, donated their country estate to the Franciscans. Mrs. Peabody also erected the Portiuncula Chapel, a copy of the Portiuncula chapel at Assisi, as a monument to her husband. The house and grounds are still widely known as Mayslake, the original name of the estate.

Here, the Franciscan Fathers conduct week-end retreats all year round, carrying on the spirit of their holy founder who believed that the Gospel should be preached in the market place. By conducting retreats, the Franciscans are giving Catholic laymen the chance to withdraw from the din of every day life and prepare anew for the battle of life.

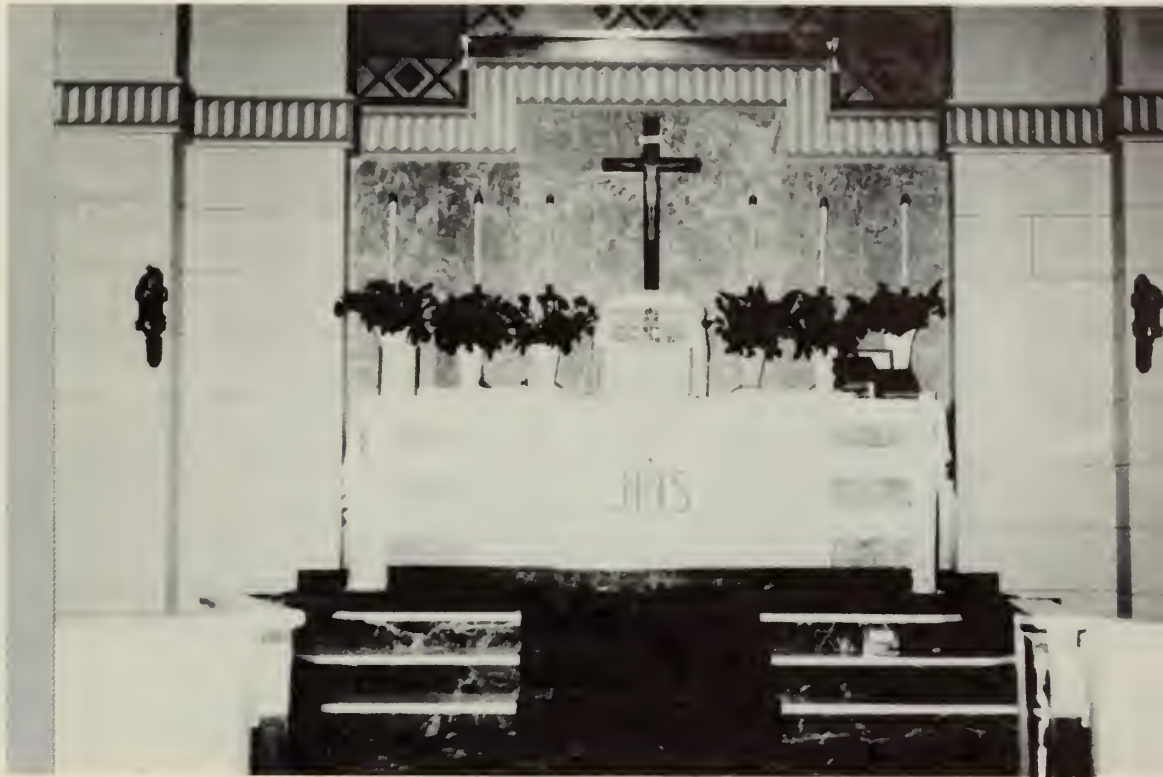
The regular retreats begin on Friday night and end with supper on Sunday. This schedule provides

an opportunity for those who must work during the week to make a retreat over the weekend. However, mid-week retreats are also sponsored for groups.

Since its establishment in 1925, approximately 100,000 men of all ages have enjoyed the spiritual advantages of this haven of peace and rest. They have gone back to their homes with renewed strength and knowledge of the part that the Catholic layman must play in the world. Last year 6,414 retreatants profited from the spiritual exercises.

The present Director of Retreats is the Very Reverend Eligius Weir, O.F.M., the former Provincial. The field secretary is the Rev. Jordan Shell, O.F.M.

It is through the guidance of such houses as St. Francis that the Catholic men of the United States have been able to exercise an influence, both by word and example, over their own communities and the nation as a whole.



## **LEWIS COLLEGE OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY LOCKPORT**

The history of Lewis College starts in 1930 with the establishment of a four-year technical high school near Lockport. The original donation came from Michael and Frances Fitzpatrick, pioneer Catholic settlers in Will County. Plans were worked out with Bishop Bernard J. Sheil for the establishment of a technical school for the education of worthy boys of the Archdiocese of Chicago. Funds were subscribed for buildings through the Holy Name Society of the Chicago Archdiocese. The Catholic Salvage Bureau was organized in the city of Chicago to provide operating capital.

During the first year of operation, Mr. Frank J. Lewis (designated a Papal Count in 1954) became interested in its operation and contributed generously to the school's property and operating revenues.

Renamed Lewis College of Science and Technology in 1946, the institution first offered a four-year junior college credit program, a program which included the last two years of high school and the

first two years of college. In 1950 the college was chartered as a four-year degree granting institution by the State, and in 1954 it received Class "A" university accreditation from the University of Illinois.

Since the change to a full college program, Lewis has grown constantly in enrollment (now over 500) and in the quality of education offered. One of the very few Catholic colleges with aeronautical training both in shop work and flight, it enjoys the highest rating from the Civil Aeronautics Administration. Academically, Lewis College has pioneered among Catholic colleges in the adoption of a General Studies program as the core of the curriculum.

Sancta Alberta Chapel, newest and most beautiful building on the campus, was donated by Mr. Lewis as a memorial to deceased members of the Lewis family. It is being dedicated this year by His Eminence Samuel Cardinal Stritch, under whose jurisdiction the college operates.





## **MARYKNOLL SEMINARY**

### **GLEN ELLYN**

A sultry morning and the thirst for a cold drink were remotely responsible for the location of Maryknoll Seminary in Glen Ellyn. Three Maryknoll Fathers were touring the Joliet area in search of suitable property. When one of the company suggested a refreshing Coca Cola, their guide brought them to the Glenbard Golf Course. They were struck immediately by its suitability, but found that the place was not for sale. However, their admiration persisted. Later when the property did become available, it was acquired as the site of the present Seminary, located at the junction of Roosevelt Road and State Route 53, just southeast of the town of Glen Ellyn. Or, at least, so goes the story.

From its beginnings, Maryknoll Seminary has performed a double function. A training house for the future priests of Maryknoll's far-flung mission fields, it has also been intended as a spiritual powerhouse of mission interest, information, prayer, and sacrifice. As

such it has been a flesh-and-blood embodiment of the mission-mindedness of the Joliet Diocese. It has shown that the new Diocese, despite its own very pressing problems of growth, is still keenly aware of the apostolic ideals implied in the choice of Saint Francis Xavier as Patron of the See. Moreover, visitors, altar boy groups, class picnics, and even casual passers-by have been impressed by the world-vision of the Catholic Church as a whole, for which the Seminary stands as a constant symbol.

It is normal that visitors should be thus impressed, for the Seminarians themselves are immersed in the spirit of the missions. Their library tries to acquire the best possible selection of mission literature and readily makes its resources available to all.

Even more influential is the direct contact with missionary personnel. Every faculty member either is a former foreign missionary or aspires to that privilege in the future. At least one priest, Father J. Clarence



Burns, has already been a confessor for the Faith. Answering a false sick call, Father Burns was captured by Manchurian bandits in the winter of 1936. For nine months, he suffered the bitter cold and hardships of northern China while his captors debated whether to kill him or not.

The present Rector, Father Arthur C. Kiernan, is no stranger to pioneer mission work, for he founded one of the highest mission centers in Maryknoll's charge, at Puno in the mountainous region of Peru. Last year's head of the French Department, Father Albert Murphy, after eighteen years in China—during which he was expelled twice—has just returned to Formosa for another tour of duty. It is the mission zeal absorbed from contact with such veterans which constitutes the spirit of Maryknoll-in-Glen-Ellyn.

Maryknoll's history as a Society began June 29, 1911, when two American priests, Father James Anthony Walsh of Boston and Father Thomas Frederick

Price of North Carolina, received papal approbation for the Catholic Foreign Mission Society of America. In the intervening years, the Society has been entrusted with mission fields in China, Japan, Korea, Hawaii, the Philippines, Formosa, Mexico, Guatemala, Peru, Bolivia, Chile, and Africa. Today Maryknoll has almost 600 priests and approximately 700 Seminarians housed in seven training houses scattered across the nation.

Maryknoll's local history in Glen Ellyn begins formally with the laying of the cornerstone in September, 1948. The first Mass on the property was offered in a classroom of the new building on Oct. 21, 1949. Less than a month later, on Nov. 15, fifteen priests, seven brothers, and 130 students were able to open the first school year.

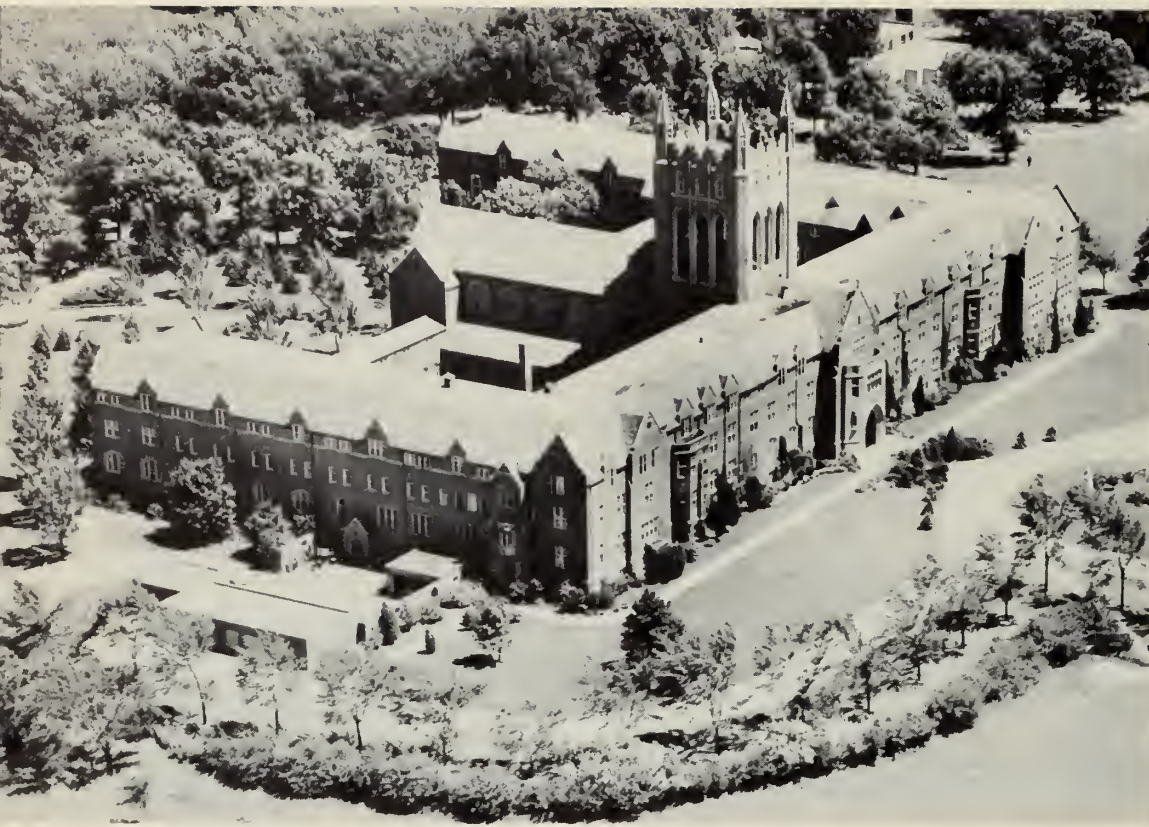
Seven days later, on Nov. 22, His Excellency Bishop McNamara offered the inaugural Mass and extended a most cordial welcome to his Diocese.

Perhaps the high point in the short history of the Seminary was the Dedication Ceremony on June 25, 1950, which brought together some 7000 persons to see the new building and to offer the "Rosary of Nations for World Peace." Bishop McNamara gave the address of welcome and Cardinal Stritch officiated at the ceremony. The extraordinarily generous cooperation of schools and parish organizations throughout Chicagoland helped make the day truly memorable.

The present faculty at Maryknoll Seminary includes the following Maryknoll Fathers: Arthur C. Kiernan, J. Ernest Mailhot, Charles E. Kenney, Paul F. D'Arcy, Joseph P. Meaney, Cyril J. Kramar, J. Joseph Daly, Gregory J. Keegan, George N. Putnam, J. Clarence Burns, Charles H. Cappel, John A. Jensen, John F. Coholan, Vincent T. Mallon, Thomas J. Cronin, Norbert J. Fleckenstein, David F. Casey, Charles A. Walker, and Edward M. Wroblewski.

One of the notable blessings of Maryknoll Seminary is the presence of the SS. Antoniennes de Marie Reine du Clerge, from Chicoutimi, Canada. These Sisters have the double aim of caring for kitchen and household duties, and of praying for the seminarians and priests for whom they work. Their contribution to all at the Seminary has been inestimable.





## ST. JUDE SEMINARY MOMENCE

With permission of His Eminence Cardinal Mundelein, the Claretian Missionary Fathers opened their first mid-west seminary in Momence, Illinois, in 1933. It is the main preparatory seminary for the Eastern Province of the Missionary Sons of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, and offers a regular four year seminary course of studies for young men interested in joining the Claretian Congregation.

Since 1933, St. Jude Seminary has grown from a small farm building to a large modern institution comprising two brick buildings on a sixty-five acre tract, which can now accommodate a total enrollment of seventy-five boys and a faculty of twelve professors.

To date twenty-four graduates of St. Jude Seminary have joined some 4,000 Claretians throughout the world. True to the ideals and aims of St. Anthony Mary Claret, their founder, they act as pastors of parishes, preach missions and retreats, educate youth,

carry on scientific research and bring the Gospel to such foreign lands as England, Central America, Japan and the Philippine Islands. They are also actively engaged in the Catholic Press, editing ninety-six magazines in many languages. In the United States they have two monthlies, the "Immaculate Heart Messenger," and the "Voice of St. Jude."

The Claretians also have other houses of study in the United States. A minor seminary is located at Old Mission San Gabriel, California, with the major seminary situated at Compton, California; and a house of studies is also found at the Catholic University in Washington, D. C.

The first two seminarians to attend St. Jude's, Father Walter Mischke and Father Patrick McPolen, are at the present time on the faculty as Prefect and Rector respectively.



*Rev. George W.  
Moran, Chaplain*



## **CENACLE RETREAT HOUSE WARRENVILLE**

In the early part of the last century, in 1826 at the famed shrine of St. Francis Regis in the mountains of southern France, Blessed Therese Couderc and Reverend Stephen Terme laid the foundations of the first Cenacle, and planted the seed of closed retreats for women. This idea was destined to spread throughout France within the lifetime of the foundress, who died, renowned for holiness and mystical favors, in 1885. By 1900, there were Cenacles in Italy, England, Belgium, Holland, and America. The pioneer in this country opened the first Cenacle on the banks of the Hudson in 1892. Today there are fifteen such centers throughout the United States.

The Convent of Our Lady of the Retreat in the Cenacle, located on Batavia Road in Warrenville, was opened February 11, 1939, as a Retreat House for laywomen. Since its opening, the Warrenville Cenacle has welcomed more than thirty thousand retreatants. Thousands of others have spent a day in prayer and adoration before the Blessed Sacrament, exposed for veneration every day on every

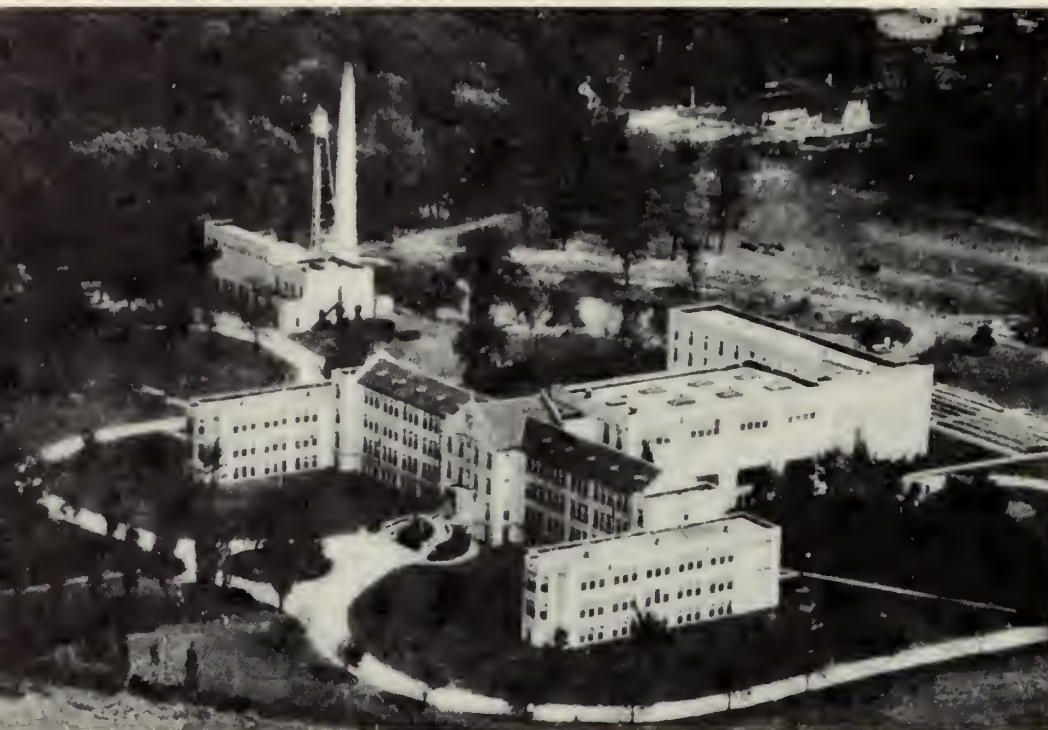
Cenacle altar throughout the world. Besides conducting public and private retreats, the seventeen Sisters of the Warrenville Cenacle also instruct children and adults in Christian doctrine.

The word "cenacle" originally meant "upper room" and refers in Scripture to the room where the Apostles and Our Lady prayed, awaiting the coming of the Holy Ghost.

Today every Cenacle is a haven where girls and women may gather for several days to pray with Our Lady, seeking the guidance of the Holy Spirit that they may come to know Christ more intimately, love Him more ardently, and follow Him more closely in their everyday life. The Chaplain is the Rev. George W. Moran.

The Cenacle vocation is both active and contemplative. The apostolate of retreats and catechetical instruction is combined with the daily chanting of the Divine Office in choir and Perpetual Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, in order to win the graces needed for each soul who seeks Christ in Retreat.





## **SISTERS OF SAINT JOSEPH LA GRANGE**

In the year 1650, when Cardinal Mazarin ruled in France, then Queen of the seventeenth-century European nations, in the tranquil little town of Le Puy a seed was planted. The sower was Father John Paul Medaille, a French Jesuit. Watered by the countless blessings of Divine Providence, the seed burst into an embryonic plant, then a green shoot appeared, then a stem, then leaves. It was a quiet growth, this humble plant. For one-hundred fifty years it grew, spreading the powerful tendrils of sacrifice throughout Europe. By 1836 all Europe was aware of this plant, The Congregation of the Sisters of Saint Joseph.

In 1836, the first Sisters of St. Joseph came to foreign lands under the protection of St. Joseph who had led Jesus and Mary to Egypt's foreign shores so many centuries before.

Transplanted in the fertile soil of the New World, this zealous Congregation grew rapidly and developed numerous foundations. In the very heart of this vast continent of North America, Concordia, Kansas, there had been established a strong founda-

tion. From this foundation, came Mother Mary Alexine Gosselin, C.S.J., and five other apostolic-minded Sisters, to La Grange, Illinois, just at the dawn of the twentieth century, in 1899.

The story of the growth of the community can be read in the growth of its schools. Today in nineteen schools in the Archdiocese of Chicago and the Diocese of Joliet, two hundred Sisters teach almost six thousand pupils. The schools of St. Isaac Jogues in Hinsdale, St. Mary in West Chicago and Assumption in Coal City — all in Joliet diocese are under the direction of the Sisters. There are at present over forty postulants and novices.

The Religious of this community, under simple vows of poverty, chastity, and obedience, strive for God's glory and their own sanctification by educating youth in parochial, boarding, and high schools.

With a three-hundred year history, rich in love of God, behind them, the Sisters of St. Joseph can rightly expect future successes for their Spouse and Saviour, Jesus Christ.

*St. Joseph's School, Downers Grove*

*Providence High School, Joliet*

*Sacred Heart School, Lockport*

*St. Mary Grade School, Joliet*

## **SISTERS OF PROVIDENCE ST. MARY-OF-THE-WOODS INDIANA**

To a one room farmhouse and a corn loft in the middle of the Indiana woods came the Sisters of Providence from Ruilee, France, on October 22, 1840. Leading the six missionary teachers was Mother Thehdore Guerin, who has become a candidate for beatification. Mother Guerin also was decorated by the French government as an outstanding educator.

Within a year, the Sisters began their work of educating young girls. Five years later their college became the first Catholic women's college in Indiana. Despite poverty and a foreign language, the Sisters built the framework of what was to become a flourishing system of education.

Today that system includes children from kindergarten through college. Their schools are in fifteen dioceses from New England to California, from the Midwest to Texas, and in the foreign mission field in Formosa.

There are four schools in the diocese of Joliet in which the Sisters teach. Providence High School and St. Mary's School are under the direction of the Reverend Fabian Donlan, O. Carm., pastor, and Sister Mary Raymond, S.P., principal.

In Downers Grove, St. Joseph School is under the direction of the Reverend L. J. Kiley, pastor, and Sister Rose Eleanor, S.P., principal.

In Lockport, Sacred Heart School of St. Dennis parish is under the direction of the Rev. M. J. Mugan, pastor, and Sister Mary Aloyse, S.P., principal.

From Ruilee, to St. Mary-of-the-Woods, to Joliet, the Sisters of Providence have travelled, in a spirit of apostolic adventure, sacrifice and love of God. In their history is contained the promise of future successes for Christ.







**St. Alexander's School  
Villa Park**



## **SISTERS OF NOTRE DAME DE NAMUR CINCINNATI, OHIO**

The Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur, coming from their Provincial House in Cincinnati, in the fall of 1925 opened classes in Saint Alexander School in Villa Park, at the request of Reverend Henry Kennedy, pastor of the newly formed parish.

The Sisters of Notre Dame was founded in Amiens, France, in 1803, but since 1809 their Mother-House has been at Namur, Belgium. Their foundress, Blessed Julie Billiart, was born at Cuvilly, France, in 1751. Stricken with paralysis shortly before the outbreak of the French Revolution, she was miraculously cured in 1804 during a novena to the Sacred Heart, and until her death in 1816, devoted herself energetically to the establishment of an Institute for the Christian education of youth.

From its inception three fundamental principles have been incorporated into the Constitutions of the Congregation of Notre Dame: first, it is designed for the education of youth, particularly for the poor,

but not excluding other classes; second, in it there is no distinction of choir and lay Sisters, hence equality dominates the relations of its members; third, it is governed by a Superior General.

In 1844 Papal approbation was granted, giving the Sisters the highly appreciated privilege of being under the immediate protection of the Holy See.

During her generalate, Blessed Julie founded numerous convents throughout Belgium. Under the guidance of her successors, houses were established in England, Scotland, Italy, the United States, Belgian Congo, British South Africa, Japan, China, and Hawaii. The daughters of Blessed Julie are engaged in all grades of educational work, from kindergarten to collegiate level, including, in the British Isles and Belgium, normal schools of high standing which yearly graduate hundreds of well-qualified women teachers. The most recent advance on the college level is the college opened by the Sisters of Notre Dame in Okayama, Japan.



**Rev. John Plaznik**  
Chaplain



**St. Angela's Academy**  
Morris

## **SISTERS OF THE HOLY CROSS**

### **NOTRE DAME, INDIANA**

The Sisters of Holy Cross were founded in Le Mans, France, by the Very Reverend Basil Anthony Mary Moreau. They were sent by him to the United States in 1843, upon the urgent invitation of the Reverend Edward Sorin, founder of the University of Notre Dame.

It was Mother Mary Angela who in 1855 founded Saint Mary's Academy at Notre Dame, Indiana. Many were the pupils who came to know her gentle influence and power as a teacher and friend.

Far reaching was her influence on the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John McNellis of Morris, Illinois. So impressed were her parents with their daughter's education, they requested that a school be established in Morris and that it be named after Mother Angela. Thus it was that Saint Angela's Academy was established in 1857, on property and in a building deeded to the Congregation of the Sisters of the Holy Cross by Mr. McNellis.

In September, 1857, Sister M. Ambrose was ap-

pointed superior by the Very Reverend Basil Moreau, at that time making a visitation in America. From September, 1857, to January, 1858, the Sisters were busy fitting and finishing the building. Other Sisters came to join them. Then, on January 4, 1858, classes began in the Academy and Sister Bertha opened a parochial school at the same time.

The school received its charter on March 29, 1869, and was accredited with the State of Illinois in 1922. Father John Plaznik has been resident chaplain since 1926.

Its music and art departments have drawn students from far and near, and it has guided many into the religious life. Today Sister M. Genevieve, the present superior, and her faculty continue to labor with Christ and for Christ in the education of youth at Saint Angela's Academy, while Sister M. Devota and her co-workers instruct His little ones at Immaculate Conception School.





*Foundress Mother  
Pauline*

## **SISTERS OF CHRISTIAN CHARITY WILMETTE**

In the Diocese of Joliet, the Sisters of the Congregation of Christian Charity staff two of the parishes: Holy Trinity, Westmont, and Notre Dame of Clarendon Hills.

For many years the Sisters came over weekly from their retreat house in Clarendon Hills to teach religion to the public school children of Holy Trinity Parish. For this reason they were chosen to be the teachers in the new Holy Trinity Parish School which was dedicated by Bishop McNamara in April of 1951.

The Congregation of the Sisters of Christian Charity were founded by Pauline von Mallinckrodt in Germany in 1849 and were called by His Holiness Pope Pius IX "Daughters of the Blessed Virgin Mary of the Immaculate Conception." Since August 21, 1849, when the first four Sisters consecrated themselves to the service of Christ for the education of youth, in particular for that of the blind children, the Com-

munity had spread throughout Germany, and from there to North and South America, Italy and Holland.

Today 1,100 Sisters of Christian Charity labor in 72 institutions which are located in the archdioceses of Chicago, Cincinnati, Detroit, New Orleans, St. Louis and St. Paul, and in the diocese of Joliet, Lansing and Sioux City. In addition about 1,400 Sisters are at present active in 80 European and South American missions.

The North American Western Province, founded in 1927, has thirty-two houses which are under the direction of Maria Immaculata Convent, Wilmette, Illinois, the central motherhouse, which is located in the Archdiocese of Chicago.

The Congregation, most intimately united with Holy Mother Church, aims to promote her welfare, the glory of God, the personal sanctification of its members, and the salvation of souls.



## THE FELICIAN SISTERS CHICAGO

"The Russians have ordered the Felician Sisters to disband. Their community is only nine years old, but all Warsaw is talking of Mother Mary Angela and her small community of nuns."

These words were on the lips and in the hearts of many souls in the Polish capital that day. In this brief span of years, the Felician Sisters had engendered a lasting affection for themselves by their multiplied acts of charity.

In 1855, Sophia Truszkowska, later Mother Mary Angela, founded the first active-contemplative community for women in Poland. In 1864, the young community was re-established in Cracow under Austrian rule. These women devoted themselves to the spiritual and physical welfare of orphans, the abandoned aged, the sick and the disabled.

On the feast of St. Francis Xavier, ten years later,

five Felician Sisters began their work on American soil among the Polish immigrants of Polonia, Wisconsin. They soon branched out into other States, and rapid growth made it necessary for them to form the seven separate provinces which they have at present. That they have been richly blessed by God is substantiated by the fact that the original community of five in America has grown to over four thousand.

With the increase in numbers has grown the increase in their range of activities. At present the Felician Sisters conduct schools, hospitals, residence homes and C.Y.O. centers in twenty-eight States, Canada and Brazil.

In the diocese of Joliet, a part of Our Lady of Good Counsel Province, these Sisters supervise the following schools; St. Jude Thaddeus, and Holy Cross in Joliet, and St. Mary's in Downers Grove.





## **SISTERS OF ST. AGNES**

### **FOND DU LAC, WISCONSIN**

In 1858, the Congregation of the Sisters of St. Agnes was founded in Barton, Wisconsin, by the Reverend Casper Rehrl and Mary Hazotte of Buffalo, New York, who later became the first Mother General. The first members aided Wisconsin missionaries in giving catechetical instruction to the children of the widely scattered Catholic families.

The motherhouse was permanently established in Fond du Lac, Wisconsin, in 1870. The Holy See approved the Congregation as a Papal Institute in 1880.

The community has a present membership of 750 professed Sisters, 56 novices and 55 postulants. From central Wisconsin, it has spread throughout the United States and to Central America.

Besides conducting elementary schools, the Sisters of St. Agnes carry on activities at Marian College

in Fond du Lac, four hospitals, a Home for the Aged, two schools of Nursing, two Orphan Homes, the Leo House (a hospice for travelers in New York City), and ten high schools. In the Joliet Diocese, the Sisters of St. Agnes teach at the Immaculate Conception high school and grammar school in Elmhurst.

Realizing the urgent need for Sisters in the foreign mission fields, the Sisters of St. Agnes accepted the invitation of the Most Reverend Matthew Niedhammer, Vicar Apostolic of the Bluefield Vicariate, to send Sisters to Nicaragua. Consequently, a medical clinic and two schools have been opened in the area.

The community is under the patronage of St. Agnes of Rome, Virgin and Martyr, who was selected in fulfillment of a promise made by the founder of the Congregation, Father Rehrl.



## **SISTERS OF THE CONGREGATION OF NOTRE DAME BOURBONNAIS**

The Congregation of Notre Dame of Montreal, the first uncloistered teaching community in North America, was founded in Montreal in the middle of the seventeenth Century by a French woman, Marguerite Bourgeoys of Troyes. At the age of thirty-three the foundress came to New France in 1653, where her great charity earned her the name of Mother of the Colony. Mother Bourgeoys' unfailing trust in Providence enabled her to endure great poverty and hardship and even, on occasion, to obtain miracles from Our Lord. At her death in 1700, she left a firmly established community. (Marguerite Bourgeoys was beatified by our present Holy Father, Pope Pius XII, on November 13, 1950.)

From the Motherhouse in Montreal the Community branches out into ten provinces where 3,388 Sisters teach 80,300 students in 213 colleges and schools throughout the United States, Canada and Japan.

In 1860, the Sisters of the Congregation of Notre

Dame of Montreal, Canada, were sent to open a school at Bourbonnais, Illinois, where there was a large settlement of French Canadians. Notre Dame Academy was opened as the first activity of the Congregation in the United States. The Academy functioned as a high school till 1953, when it became the novitiate for the American Province.

At Kankakee the Sisters of the Congregation of Notre Dame staff St. Joseph's Seminary, founded in 1865. St. Joseph's is a boarding school for girls at the elementary and high school levels. There are twenty-nine Sisters of the Community at St. Joseph's with the present high school enrollment at seventy-eight. Also at Kankakee is St. Rose of Lima School, established in 1929. Sixteen Sisters teach at St. Rose's; the present enrollment is 596 pupils. St. Martin of Tours school was opened in Kankakee in 1951. The 86 pupils of St. Martin's are taught by four Sisters of the Congregation of Notre Dame.





## SISTERS OF ST. FRANCIS OF MARY IMMACULATE JOLIET

The Congregation of the Third Order of St. Francis of Mary Immaculate rejoices with the Diocese on the dedication of the new Cathedral. Their happiness on this occasion is not unmixed with a sense of achievement, for theirs has been the privilege for nearly one hundred years to play a part, however humble, in the Catholic life of Joliet. It was on November 4, 1863 that the first religious teachers—Sisters Alfred Moes and Sister Bernard Peacard—came to Joliet. They were Sisters of St. Francis, soon to be known as “of Mary Immaculate,” and they took charge of the parochial school of St. John the Baptist. Their coming was also a “first” in the State, for at that time there were no Franciscans in our Midwestern Illinois.

### Establishment of the Congregation

It was not until August 2, 1865 that the Congregation of the Sisters of St. Francis of Mary Immaculate was formally established. On that day a pioneer group of four Sisters who had branched from the Society of the Marianites, now known as the Sisters of the Holy Cross, and who had for more than two years been following the Franciscan way of life, was granted ecclesiastical approval by the Most Reverend James Duggan, Bishop of Chicago. The same day Sister Mary Alfred Moes was appointed first superior general by the Very Reverend Pamfilo da Magliano, Custos Provincial of the Friars Minor at Allegany, New York. On this day also the first postulant, later Mother Mary Angela, was presented for the Franciscan habit in the chapel at St. Bonaventure's, Allegany.

Since then more than a thousand candidates have

joined the ranks of the Sisters and the work of the Community has spread from the small convent home on Broadway to the large convent on Plainfield Avenue and to sixty missions located in six states—and promises have been given for five additional missions, which will take the Sisters into two more states.

The organization of the Sisters and the work done by them received the approbation of Rome when in 1901 Pope Leo XIII approved the Constitutions of the Congregation, and in 1909 when Pope Pius X confirmed the approval. Further, on the occasion of the Golden Jubilee of the Congregation in 1915, Pope Benedict XV appointed a Cardinal Protector for the Community.

### Dedication to the Education of Youth

Primarily, the Sisters of St. Francis of Mary Immaculate are dedicated to the education of youth. They have, however, always been willing to meet the needs of the hour. For example, they volunteered their services, two Sisters even sacrificing their lives, in the yellow fever invasion of Memphis in 1873; they assisted in Red Cross work during two World Wars, and took an active part in nursing the sick during the 1918 flu epidemic. Their regular work, however, has never swerved from the purpose of educating youth.

In their educational endeavors the Sisters are guided by the great Franciscan ideals that have come to them through seven centuries. They believe that knowledge may never be divorced from personal holiness; that the universe may be sacramentalized, whereby all creation will lead to the Creator; that happiness does

*First residence of the Sisters in Joliet*



not lie in material goods; that simplicity is the daughter of truth; that the great Franciscan spirit of joy can be everyone's who will hold Christ as the center of all being.

Moreover, the Sisters have placed themselves under the special protection of Mary Immaculate, patroness of the entire Seraphic Order. Since the two-fold aim of the Congregation is the sanctification of the Sisters and the education of youth, this dedication to the Immaculate Mother and Seat of Wisdom is most appropriate. The Marian devotions and practices in the Community have patterned the lives of the Sisters and helped form the ideals which motivate their teaching.

In carrying out the objectives of their Congregation, the Sisters at present conduct schools in two archdioceses: Chicago and St. Louis; and in ten dioceses: Joliet, Altoona, Cleveland, Columbus, Mobile-Birmingham, Peoria, Rockford, Springfield in Illinois, Superior, and Toledo. Approximately seven hundred are actively engaged in fifty-six elementary schools, thirteen high schools, and one college. Of these schools five are private; two are public; two are central high schools; one is a special diocesan school for girls with temporary character problems; the others, numbering fifty-two, are parochial.

The parochial schools which the Sisters staff in the Joliet Diocese, and the year work was begun in each, are as follows: Immaculate Conception, Kankakee, 1875 (discontinued in 1879 and re-established in 1918); St. Joseph, Joliet, 1895; St. Raymond, Joliet,

1918; St. Bernard, Joliet, 1918; St. Joseph, Manhattan, 1925; St. Paul the Apostle, Joliet, 1951; St. Jude, Joliet, 1954. Worthy of additional mention is Holy Cross School, Joliet, which was staffed by the Sisters of the Congregation from 1895 to 1944.

It is in parochial schools throughout the field that the Congregation is doing its dominant work. They range in size from Immaculate Conception, Kankakee, with its roster of fifty-four names, to Sacred Heart, Englewood, with an enrollment of more than eleven hundred. In all these schools the Sisters are attempting to meet the needs of rural districts, small towns, and crowded city parishes.

To gauge the extent of their activity, however, one must go beyond the immediate work of the classroom. There are, for instance, the care of the altars and sacristies; the training and supervision of altar boys; the direction of sodalities, clubs, and choirs; playground supervision; vacation schools; music lessons for individual pupils; and catechetical instructions for children in public schools. Parochial school life has many facets, and the Sisters are in many ways directing children, bringing them ever closer to Christ that they "may have Life and have it more abundantly."

Of the five private schools conducted by the Congregation, Our Lady of Mercy in Granville, Ohio, provides special care for thirty-two mentally retarded girls. The remaining four schools are in Joliet.

The first of these, St. Francis Academy, was opened as a "select school" in 1869. It remained a rather exclusive "seminary of learning for young ladies" until



1904, when it was closed to help relieve the scarcity of teachers due to the growing demand for parochial schools. In 1915, the facilities for Catholic secondary education in Joliet being limited, the Academy again opened its doors, admitting through the years ever increasing numbers. The present enrollment of eight hundred students makes imperative the new building being erected on Larkin Avenue.

The Guardian Angel Home was the next private institution established. From the beginning of their teaching, the Sisters had admitted and cared for orphans, but it was not until 1879 that a separate orphanage was founded. At present one hundred and thirty-five children find not only shelter, but loving care and sympathetic guidance at "the Home."

The College of St. Francis was among the Community's schools 'a consummation that had long been devoutly hoped for.' Opening in 1925, it offered young women opportunities for a Christ-centered higher education and provided facilities for the Congregation's teacher training program. It has consistently held to its aims as "a Franciscan Catholic Liberal Arts College." It has sought to teach "the art of plain and holy living" through the great Franciscan ideals. Moreover, the College early examined its objectives, its curricular offerings, its extra-curricular activities, and its student guidance, that all might be solidly Catholic. This approach has through the years been maintained and developed.

An additional school of the Community's, a specialized one, is St. Francis Preparatory. It admits girls of high school age who show signs of a religious vo-

cation and who wish to join the Congregation after their junior year. It is intended especially for those who cannot obtain Catholic schooling at home. The routine at the Preparatory is similar to that of a boarding school; and the environment and training insure for the aspirants balanced and wholesome living. Besides the regular courses of studies at St. Francis Academy, the aspirants receive basic religious training intended to prepare them for the Postulate.

#### Motherhouse and Novitiate

But what of the Convent proper—the source and origin of all the activity in the field? To the Sisters, Joliet is synonymous with home, for it is here on Plainfield Avenue that their Motherhouse has since 1882 been located. Here new candidates are received. Here the young, both novices and postulants, are trained for religious life and practice living by rule and according to the vows they hope to profess; here they are educated for their future work. Here the old return after active service to spend the quiet evening of their lives. Here, too, the Sisters on mission come each summer for further education and for the annual retreat, that they may be refreshed in spirit for the new school year.

Thus the Convent, which to the passer-by lies like a castle half hidden by trees, is to the Sisters home, enriched by the memories of three quarters of a century. Yes, it is home; but it is also the "House of God." Therefore, it is a beacon, for here is Light; it is a power, for here is Strength; it is a harbor, for here is Security.



## FRANCISCAN SISTERS OF THE SACRED HEART JOLIET

In the shadow of the Black Forest, Germany, a group of young women was organized in 1866 by Rev. William Berger to care for the sick, and children. When Bismarck brought pressure on the Catholic Church, which to his autocratic mind stood in the way of progress, the growing community was forced by the Kultukampf in 1876 to sacrifice its field of labor. Following the light of Divine Providence, Mother M. Anastasia Bischler and her companions landed on the saving shores of America and settled in Avilla, Indiana, at the invitation of the Bishop of Fort Wayne, most Rev. Joseph Davenger.

They began teaching in the parish school of the church of the Assumption there. When members of the community went to Joliet to engage in nursing, this city was chosen as the site for the motherhouse while work at Avilla continued.

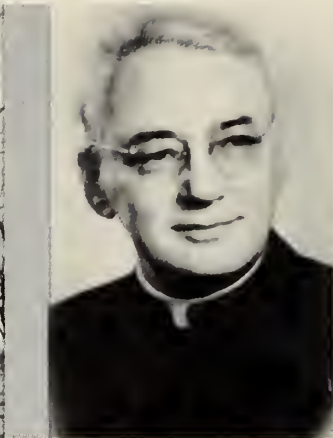
The congregation grew apace and soon there were

establishments in other cities. Teaching and nursing are carried on in the Archdioceses of Chicago, Los Angeles, and San Francisco and the Dioceses of Fort Wayne, Peoria, Rockford, and Springfield, Illinois. In the Diocese of Joliet, the sisters staff two schools; St. Joseph's, Lockport, and St. Mary's, Mokena; and they maintain St. Joseph's Hospital in the city of Joliet.

In 1954, a new novitiate was dedicated to train young ladies in the glorious work to which God has called them. By simple vows of Poverty, Chastity and Obedience, and by an unselfish wholehearted service to mankind in need, the Sisters fulfill the twofold purpose of the Incarnation, the honor and glory of God and the salvation of souls.

The Franciscan Sisters of the Sacred Heart now number 529 professed sisters, 21 novices and 10 postulants. At the present time the superior general is Mother M. Ursulina Greider.





*Rev. John C. Then,  
Chaplain*

## THE GUARDIAN ANGEL HOME JOLIET

"See that you despise not one of these little ones: for I say to you that their angels in heaven always see the face of My Father Who is in heaven." (Matt. xviii-10)

The Sisters of St. Francis of Mary Immaculate have been seeing that this commandment was observed in Joliet and vicinity since 1870.

Their first house was on Plainfield Avenue, but each year more of Christ's orphaned little ones came to them until they had to move, in 1898, to the Fox Estate on Buell Avenue. This house was dedicated under the title of the Guardian Angel Home. By 1924 the enrollment had outgrown this house, so the Sisters purchased the present 116 acre site located on Plainfield Road and Theodore Street. Here they built the four story buff brick structure which catches the eye of cross-country travellers on Route 30.

The staff of twenty sisters care for a yearly average of 135 children from four to fourteen years. Trained Sisters present a curriculum which is fully accredited

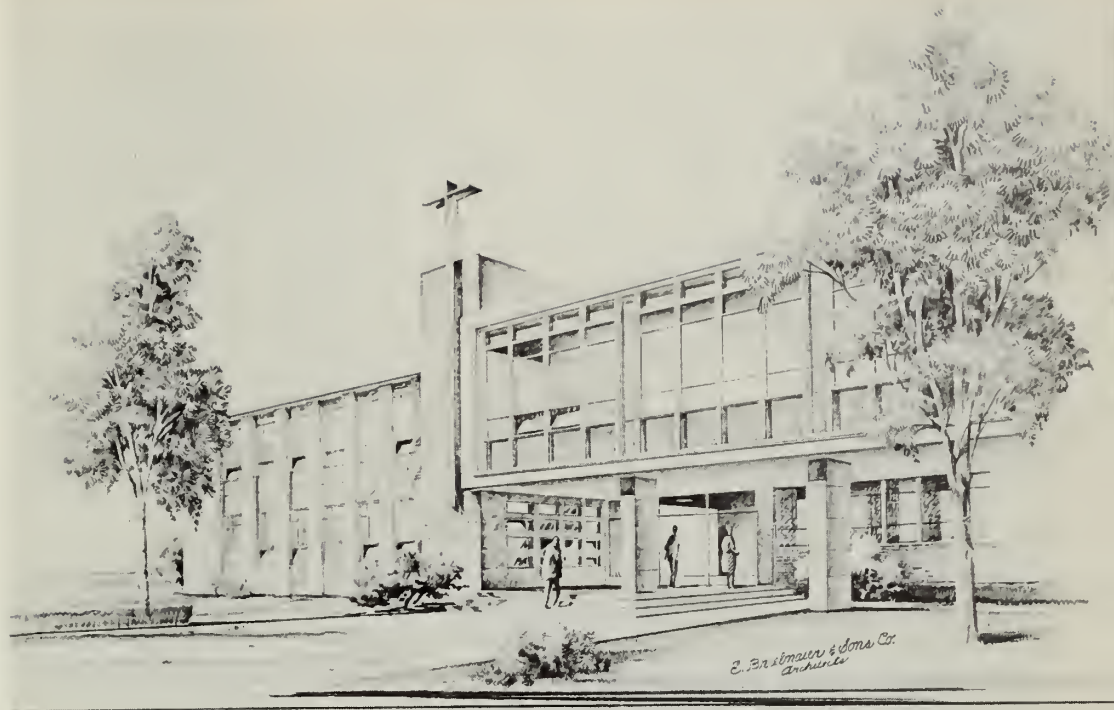
by the diocese and the state.

Scientifically planned diets are arranged in a modern kitchen. The house garden and farm provide fresh vegetables, eggs, milk and meat.

The Reverend John C. Then, the resident diocesan chaplain, offers Holy Mass daily and cares for the Spiritual needs of the children. Father Then has spent all of his 31 priestly years in Illinois. He was assigned as the first resident chaplain to the Guardian Angel Home in 1950.

After the present building was completed, friends of the home organized the GAH club to help the Sisters financially and to bring Joliet friends to the home. Joliet doctors and dentists give generously of their time. Local barbers, societies, farmers and merchants are ever lending assistance to the Sisters.

The Guardian Angel Home truly fulfills Christ's commandment by preparing her children to take their places in society as citizens who will be a credit to God, their Alma Mater, and their country.



## ST. FRANCIS ACADEMY JOLIET

Eighty-five years ago St. Francis Academy opened its doors to the first students. Today eight hundred girls crowd the halls of CFA and make plans for a new Academy building an urgent necessity.

Since 1869, St. Francis Academy has been under the direction of the Sisters of St. Francis of Mary Immaculate, Joliet, Illinois. During these years the Academy has developed from a small boarding school to the largest Catholic high school in the Joliet diocese.

Today's Academy student selects her program from some fifty classes offered each academic year. She may take part in extracurricular activities ranging from Art Club to volley ball, including Athletic Letter Club, Glee Club, Photo Shop, Orchestra, and Red Cross. The Academy also offers membership in three national student organizations: National Honor Society, Quill and Scroll, and National Thespian Society.

During the past decade, the enrollment has more than doubled. In the school year 1944-45, three hundred forty-one girls attended; this year the enrollment reaches almost eight hundred. Since the present build-

ing at Wilcox and Taylor Streets was built to accommodate only three hundred, it is seriously overcrowded.

Last spring plans for a new two million dollar structure were revealed. The new Academy, to be located at Larkin and Ingalls, will include twenty-five home rooms, two art rooms, typing rooms, biology laboratories plus a chemistry and a physics laboratory, science lecture room and Office Practice room. Music facilities will provide for a number of practice rooms plus a choral and an orchestra room. The cafeteria will seat three hundred fifty. A chapel, library, journalism room, book store, and Administration Office will complete the scholastic wing.

An adjoining convent will accommodate a faculty of fifty Sisters. It is hoped that the new building will be ready for occupancy by September, 1956.

With these better facilities, the Academy will continue its more than three-quarters of a century function of forming "Christian young women prepared to carry Christ into every walk of life."





## **SISTERS OF LORETTO**

### **LORETTO, KENTUCKY**

The Sisters of Loretto were established in what is now the diocese of Joliet, in 1914. They came to conduct St. Patrick's grade and high school in Kankakee. Nine other elementary and secondary schools are under their care in the State of Illinois, while their entire network of schools extends from coast to coast. The enrollment in these Loretto schools number some 35,000 grade, high school, and college students.

The Motherhouse of the Sisters of Loretto is at Loretto, Kentucky, fifty-five miles south of Louisville. The history of this sisterhood dates back to 1812, when Reverend Charles Nerinckx, an emigre from the French Revolution, founded the religious community to bring the blessings of Catholic education to the pioneers of Kentucky.

Beginning humbly with three members, living and teaching classes in a log cabin, this American Congregation has worked untiringly and unceasingly as they expanded with the growing West. As

civilization pushed back the frontiers, Loretto schools and convents moved into newly established towns and territories. Mission after mission was established, especially in the Western dioceses where the "Loretines" were the pioneer missionary sisters among the Indians. In 1823, the Sisters of Loretto were in Missouri; in 1847, in Kansas; in 1852 in New Mexico; in Illinois, in 1863; in 1864, in Colorado; in 1879, in Texas; and in 1886, they reached California, the land of the sunset. Foundations made in the twentieth century have extended the labors of these sisters into the South and East.

Thus the Sisters of Loretto have sought to carry out the stirring challenge of their saintly founder: "Gain souls, hunt souls, catch souls, court souls, draw souls, pull souls, carry souls, deliver souls, shelter souls, buy souls! Souls, souls, and nothing but souls, for the love of Jesus, the owner of all souls!" May God continue to prosper their apostolate of Catholic education in the diocese of Joliet and all other present and future foundations!



## **SISTERS OF THE HOLY FAMILY OF NAZARETH DES PLAINES**

Almost from its beginning, the order of Sisters of Holy Family of Nazareth has devoted its endeavors toward furthering educational goals in the best Catholic tradition. Founded by Mother Mary Frances Siedliska, the order aims to emulate the virtues of the Holy Family amid external works of zeal.

Following the blessings and permission granted in audience by Pope Pius IX, Mother Frances organized the sisterhood in 1875 in Rome. Thus, the Eternal City became the site of the General Motherhouse, radiating inspiration and guidance to all the convents of Nazareth with that universality which is typical of the Catholic Church.

The Sisters of the Holy Family of Nazareth were established in the United States by the year 1885, opening schools at first in Chicago and Philadelphia, and subsequently extending into the New England States, the Northwest and the South. The progressiveness of the Foundress was manifested in the realization of two great ideas during her lifetime, namely, the advancement of the cause of education of girls

by organizing the Holy Family Academy in Chicago, with elementary and high school departments, and the founding of St. Mary of Nazareth Hospital, the first general hospital in the northwest section of Chicago.

In 1910, a small group of teachers staffed St. Stanislaus Bishop and Martyr School in Kankakee, Illinois, and through the years they have met the needs of the local community with enduring devotion.

The American statistics of the order show that the Sisters conduct today: 2 teacher training institutions; 10 High Schools, 80 elementary schools, 4 child caring institutions, 11 hospitals and 3 schools of nursing.

In general, the Sisters dedicate themselves largely to teaching in elementary and secondary schools, and organize special classes in religion for children deprived of the advantages of attending Catholic schools. Thus the whole community of teachers, nurses, technicians, office and social workers are bound together by the spirit of the Holy Family in an active-contemplative life of prayer, work and charity for all.





*Alverno College*

## **SCHOOL SISTERS OF ST. FRANCIS MILWAUKEE, WISCONSIN**

The Congregation of the School Sisters of St. Francis was founded to further God's glory through the consecrated lives of the Sisters in their works of charity.

Eighty years of prayer, work, and sacrifice span the distance between three young religious living in a tiny four-room convent in New Cassell, now Campbellsport, Wisconsin, in 1874, to 2417 Sisters with headquarters at St. Joseph Convent, Milwaukee, Wisconsin, in 1954.

Under the direction of the foundress, Mother M. Alexia, the co-foundress, Mother M. Alfons, and their successors the work of the Congregation expanded to include, in addition to the Mother House, a college, thirty high schools, two professional music schools, 177 elementary schools, a home for the infirm and retired Sisters, two sanitariums, two general hospitals, as well as missionary activities in the United States and foreign countries.

To the Mother House portals come aspirants and postulants—Franciscans-to-be—to learn the Poor Man's secret of life and love, to learn to be Franciscan teach-

ers, musicians, nurses, housekeepers, or apostles in some other capacity.

From this sanctuary, the heart of which is the Chapel of Perpetual Adoration, the Sisters go forth into seven Archdioceses and eighteen Dioceses throughout the United States; to Spanish-speaking America, and to Asia fertile for the seed of Christianity. The message these Sisters bring is Franciscan joy and peace.

The following is a listing of the schools under the care of the School Sisters of St. Francis in the Diocese of Joliet: St. Alexis School, Bensenville, Illinois; St. Isidore School, Cloverdale, Illinois; St. Petronille School, Glen Ellyn, Illinois; St. Theresa School, Kankakee, Illinois; Sacred Heart School, Lombard, Illinois; SS. Peter & Paul School, Naperville, Illinois; St. Walter School, Roselle, Illinois; St. Liborius School, Steger, Illinois; St. Irene School, Warrenville, Illinois; St. Michael School, Wheaton, Illinois; St. John Baptist School, Winfield, Illinois; and Holy Ghost School, Wood Dale, Illinois.



*Reception Day*

## **ADRIAN DOMINICANS** **ADRIAN, MICHIGAN**

Like all other Dominican Sisters, the Adrian Dominicans trace their paternal ancestry to Saint Dominic, who founded the Order of Preachers in the thirteenth century. They claim their historic descent from Holy Cross Convent, Ratisbon. Beginning with a small hospital in Michigan, the community has run a swift expansive course. At the present time, in a little more than sixty years, it has about 1,900 sisters serving the Church in 32 archdioceses and dioceses in this country, as well as the Church in the Dominican Republic and Puerto Rico.

The single purpose of the community in all its educational and apostolic works is to save as many souls, in as many ways, as possible. The sisters teach in 166 parochial high schools and grade schools in sixteen states and they have four catechetical centers besides. They conduct Sisters Hospital and Santa Cruz Hospital in Santa Cruz, California, and Rose de Lima Hospital in Henderson, Nevada. They care for the aged and infirm at Saint Theresa Home in Cincinnati, Ohio. Their desire to protect young business women finds them at Casa Francesca, Miami Beach, Florida.

Parish visitation takes these sisters from door to door, city to city, and state to state. Social service and the teaching of Christian Doctrine bring them to various centers in city and countryside.

The community has had its own college, Siena Heights, since 1919 and this is located on the Motherhouses campus in Adrian. From here and from Barry College, established in 1940, the sisters go out to the universities and special institutions of learning. They have their own House of Studies on the Catholic University of America campus, Washington, D.C., where the Adrian Dominicans as well as Sisters from other communities reside while studying at the University. Members of the community are on the teaching staff at the Catholic University in Washington and on the staff at the University of Santo Domingo in the Dominican Republic.

These daughters of St. Dominic carry out Christ's mandate to "do and teach" by their generous labors in the following schools in the diocese of Joliet: St. Joseph, Rockdale; St. Patrick and Sacred Heart, Joliet; and Visitation, Elmhurst, Illinois.





Convent Garden

## THE INSTITUTE OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY LADIES OF LORETTO WHEATON

The Institute of the Blessed Virgin was founded in England by Sister Mary Ward in the 17th century. During these troubled times in English history for Catholics was founded the Institute for the education of girls. The English Ladies, as they were called, spread to Ireland, whence they journeyed to Canada in 1847. The first house of the Institute in the United States was established in Joliet in the year 1880. The Sisters came from Toronto, Canada, their Mother-house, to open a parochial school in St. Patrick's Parish. In 1883, the nuns moved to St. Mary's Academy which was the first Catholic High School in the state to be accredited by the University of Illinois, according to a statement by Mr. Hollister, a former accreditor for the University.

After these foundations in Joliet, which were closed in 1919, the houses of the Institute increased until we find them in Chicago at Loretto High School, Englewood; Loretto Academy, Woodlawn; and in the parishes of St. Adrian, St. Bernard, St. Bride, and St. Cyril. In Northlake they conduct a school at the parish of St. John Vianney and also a Kindergarten

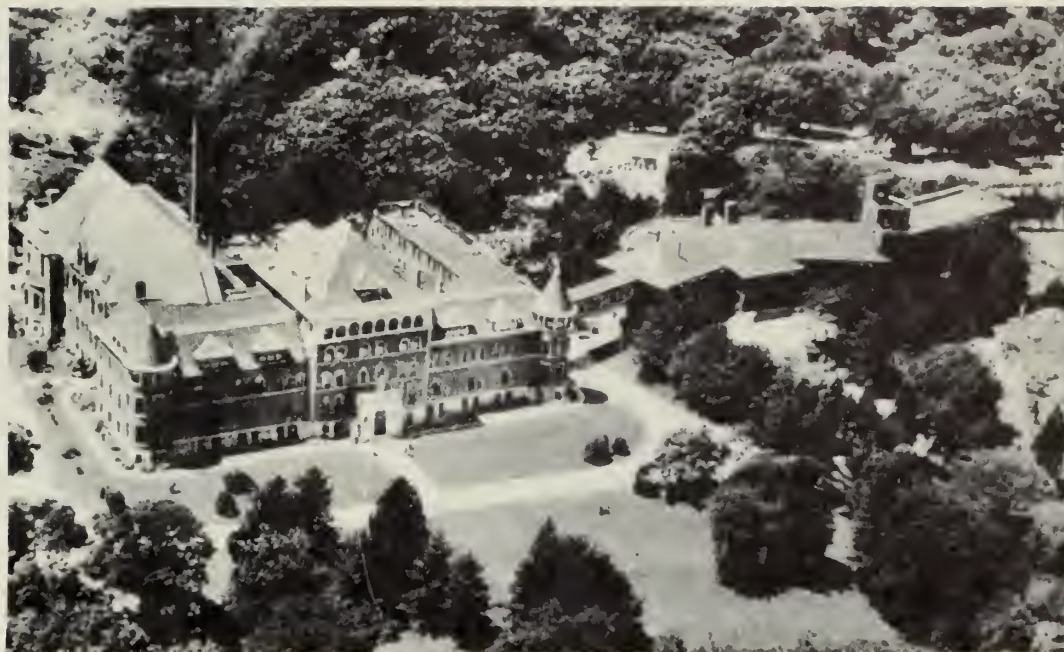
in Wheaton, Illinois. Their oldest establishment in the United States is the Loretto Convent, located at Englewood, Chicago.

The Institute's two-fold aim is the sanctification of its members and the salvation of souls. They conduct day and boarding schools for the instruction and formation of girls in the principles of a holy and upright life. Catechetical centers, summer vacation schools and correspondence courses in religion are some of the very recent developments.

The sisters of the Institute of the Blessed Virgin Mary also are called the Ladies of Loretto.

The Ladies of Loretto are now well-known and recognized throughout the country for their fine work in their schools, beginning with girls and finishing with Catholic Ladies. Their work and example have proved for many Catholic girls a strong attraction to the life of a religious.

Besides the kindergarten at Wheaton, the Sisters also maintain there the Loretto Novitiate, where the Postulants and Novices of the Institution pursue their many studies.



## **SISTERS OF CHARITY OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY DUBUQUE, IOWA**

An American Institute, the Congregation of the Sisters of Charity of the Blessed Virgin Mary was founded in Philadelphia, in 1883, by Mother Mary Francis Clarke, an Irish gentlewoman. The previous year she had gathered a small band of young women about her and opened a small school on Ann Street, Dublin, Ireland. The next year they came to the new country where they made their first vows. Following the inspiration of the Jesuit missionary, Father De Smet, who kindled their interest in the western missions, and the advice of Father James Terence Donaghoe, pastor of their Philadelphia school, the Sisters in 1843 accepted the invitation of Bishop Mathias Loras to transfer their Motherhouse and Novitiate to the Diocese of Dubuque. The Congregation grew rapidly, opening schools throughout the Middle West. In 1883, His Holiness Pope Leo XIII gave final approval to the institute which today numbers 2,023

members who conduct schools in 18 states and in Hawaii. Altogether they number 142 elementary schools, 51 high schools, and 2 colleges for women, one named Clarke College, in Iowa, the other Mundelein College, Chicago, Illinois. In the Joliet diocese they labor in St. Rose Parish, Wilmington.

In hope of promoting by Catholic teaching, the greater honor and glory of God and the salvation of souls, and in the true spirit of votive consecration, each member of the Congregation of the Sisters of Charity of the Blessed Virgin Mary makes the principles of education the study and pursuit of her life. She goes forth to her mission to do her share of the world's work, to co-operate with all religious teachers, who have a common end and purpose to achieve, namely, to take children of men, and by means of a Christian education make them children of God and loyal citizens of their country.



The history of St. Joseph's Hospital, from the time of its foundation in the winter of 1880, has been one full of events of pioneer experiences and likewise of almost unbelievable proof of "Divine Providence," never failing to come to the aid of those who undertake an enormous task for His sake; namely, providing for the sick and afflicted.

In 1880 His Excellency, the Archbishop Patrick A. Feehan of Chicago, and the Very Reverend Father Gerhard Becher, O.F.M. requested and encouraged the Venerable Foundress of the Congregation of the Franciscan Sisters of the Sacred Heart, Mother Anastasia Bischler, to start the present St. Joseph's Hospital in Joliet, Illinois.

The small family of Sisters, three in number, sent to Joliet from Avilla, Indiana, the first motherhouse of this Community, were under no illusion as to the tremendous task they were about to undertake with practically no funds for such a foundation. The Archbishop had said, "You must depend solely upon Divine Providence." The Sisters were temporarily housed at 509 North Hickory Street. Then came the Sister's crisis, the first to be faced in Joliet.

Joliet was stricken with a virulent form of typhoid fever epidemic and for many, many weeks the Sisters combated the epidemic, going from house to house nursing the sick, oblivious to their own danger or comfort; and when all hope was gone comforting the dying and performing the last sad offices for the dead.

Hardly had the people recovered from Typhoid Fever when the following Spring the city and district was visited with a more serious pestilence; namely, an epidemic of Smallpox.

During this epidemic one of the Sisters suggested that the sick be taken out of the city to an empty farmhouse about two miles into the country. Here, in this temporary "Isolation Hospital" the people stricken with this affliction were nursed back to health by the faithful Sisters who were assisted by some of the good, charitable people of Joliet.

When this epidemic was over, the grateful citizens of Joliet gave the Sisters a donation, as a token of their gratitude. Further subscriptions were taken up and the Convent, situated at the corner of Broadway and Division Streets was purchased. This building was remodeled at once and made suitable for hospital pur-



poses. On August 15, 1882, the Sisters moved in from their temporary home and the remodeled hospital was opened under the patronage of St. Joseph to whom it was dedicated.

Progress, the watchword of all ages, had especially set its mark on St. Joseph's Hospital. Various additions were added in the course of time, and now after years of toil and struggle through times—good and bad—the city of Joliet has in St. Joseph's Hospital everything that our faithful pioneer workers had idealized and prayed for.

We now have a modern building of six floors with a 300 bed capacity which enables us to take care of patients afflicted with any form of disease. Four floors are of medical and surgical patients. The fourth floor is entirely set aside for the care of maternity patients and newborn infants. The sixth floor contains a special children's department where they are under the care and guidance of those especially trained to take care of pediatric patients. All this built from a modest two-story structure built of stone which was quarried in the back yard. The quarry is still there only now it is a beautiful garden instead of a barren waste.

During the early years, the average number of patients cared for by the Sisters, both in-patients and out-patient, for one year was 468. Last year there were almost 12,000 in-patients only.

There has been much progress in every field of endeavor. Nor is the hospital field an exception. Here we find abundant evidence of rapid advance in con-



Rev. Alphonse Coan,  
OFM,  
Chaplain



## ST. JOSEPH'S HOSPITAL JOLIET

struction, equipment and technique. St. Joseph's Hospital provides facilities for the treatment of practically all diseases to patients of all religious denominations. Equipment is complete for medical, surgical, maternity, and pediatric cases. The hospital is rated as Class A by the American Medical Association, American College of Surgeons Board of Accreditation, the American Hospital Association, etc.

A well-equipped Clinical and Pathological Laboratory, modern Operating Rooms give the physicians the means to treat and determine diseases for the benefit of the patients. The Roentgen Department, enlarged and improved, enables the physician to more thoroughly examine the patient by the various methods of x-ray. Valuable x-ray therapy, which is indicated in many malignant cases, which the patient had to receive in other cities, is also available at St. Joseph's Hospital.

Another modern feature is the Central Supply and Service Department which is available to all doctors—day and night—and is an additional means for immediate and efficient service.

To provide for this and all other services, many nurses must be educated. St. Joseph's School of Nursing is ready for this work. This is a separate building located near the hospital and facing the Hospital Garden where flowers, shrubs, and trees make an ever-changing panorama of color. There is a large staff of nurses, graduate and student, ever ready to give the best of their service to suffering humanity.

A staff of resident physicians are on call day and

night to assist the doctors and give first aid service whenever needed and necessary.

There is a scientific Medical Records Department, staffed by two Registered Record Librarians and five Medical Secretaries who are busy at all times classifying and tabulating all medical work at this institution and serving the physicians in the medical case-study, recording, and follow-up work.

Valuable medical conferences are held to the benefit of the physician, patient, and hospital. The hospital enjoys the cooperation and goodwill of the entire medical profession of Joliet and vicinity many of whom have witnessed and helped to bring the institution to its present success.

A new and modern feature is the recently opened Physical Therapy Department where patients may be treated with best methods and equipment with light, water, massage, and so on.

The Blood Bank at St. Joseph's Hospital is another department always alert and ready to give the life-saving transfusions so often necessary in emergencies.

In 1942, a new wing was constructed where a special diet kitchen, a nurses' assembly and class room are now present. Besides this, the wing also gave space for an additional 38 hospital beds.

Today, with admissions almost double that of the in-patients of 1942, the pressing need for more hospital beds is very apparent. The Sisters and doctors of St. Joseph's Hospital have filed a request for building permits with the church authorities. A large number of patients have to be turned away because of the lack of hospital bed facilities. This has undoubtedly arisen due to the large increase in the population in Joliet and vicinity brought about by industrial growth. We must keep the hospital progressing along with the vigorous community.

The spiritual life and care of the St. Joseph's Hospital has been under the Friars of St. Francis. The Rev. Alphonse Coan, O.F.M. is the chaplain at the present time.

The sisters are grateful to everyone who has in any way helped in this tremendous undertaking of the development of St. Joseph's Hospital since its foundation. Prayers for their benefactors are daily offered before the altar in the beautiful hospital chapel.





*Aerial View of St. Mary's Convent, Hospital, Nurses Home, Huntington, W. Va.*

## PALLOTTINE MISSIONARY SISTERS ASHKUM



TE DEUM LAUDAMUS, TE DOMINUM CONFITEMUR. Thus did Reverend C. L. Langlais, C.S.V., and his parishioners voice their gratitude as they paused processionally at St. Mary's church en route from the station with the five Sisters assigned to staff their newly erected school. It was the eve of the Feast of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, August, 1895.

The original structure soon proved inadequate. In 1898, a chapel and an all-purpose hall were constructed. In 1906, another school building permitted the use of the first edifice as a Provincial House and Novitiate. A new Novitiate will soon rise close to the Lourdes grotto.

This Provincial House with its adjoining Holy Family Academy serves a vital purpose in the Diocese. It is the training center for future teachers. Affiliation with Mount Mary College, Milwaukee, Wisconsin, makes possible the pursuance of studies on the college level during the 3 years of intensive Novitiate training. Senior novices do practice teaching at the Academy under the direction of experienced educators.

Holy Family Academy known as the "school with the family spirit," is accredited by the University of Illinois and recognized by the Illinois State Depart-

ment of Public Instruction. It is a co-educational elementary parochial school, and a girls' high school, serving mostly resident students. Its distinctive characteristics is the SPIRIT OF FAMILY LOVE. A maternal interest in each child awakens a realization of hitherto unrecognized possibilities. These are cultivated, channelled, challenged. The motive power? "I want to help you become all God meant you to be when He created you." Its fruit? Contentment, filial gratitude, a joyous sharing and spending of self for others,—a well rounded, cultured personality with a thoroughly Christian outlook on life.

The last school opened in the Diocese of Joliet, August, 1954, is in the newly founded parish of St. Mary Magdalene in the episcopal city.

Holy Family Province, under the direction of Reverend Mother Mary Mercy, Provincial Superior, cares for the following institutions in the Diocese: Provincial House and Novitiate, Beaverville; Holy Family Academy, Beaverville; Our Lady Academy, Manteno; St. Patrick Academy, Momence; Villa Marie, Momence; St. Mary Magdalene School, Joliet; St. Mary Hospital, Kankakee; and St. Mary's School of Nursing, Kankakee.



## **SISTERS, SERVANTS OF THE HOLY HEART OF MARY BEAVERVILLE**

The Congregation has its roots in the Eternal City of Rome. There it was that Blessed Vincent Pallotti, a Roman by birth, died in 1850 after a life of extraordinary love of God and neighbor. What is known today as "Catholic Action" and "The Lay Apostolate" was foreseen and begun by this zealous Apostle of Rome a hundred years ago, his aim being to use all possible means for the increase, deepening and spread of the Faith. Realizing the need of apostolic helpers, Vincent Pallotti founded in 1835 the Society of the Catholic Apostolate for priests and brothers. Some time later he established the Sisterhood of the Catholic Apostolate whose members conducted orphanages and schools in Italy. When, in later years, the Fathers took up work in the foreign missions, they were in urgent need of Sisters. The mission field assigned to them, the Cameroons in Africa, was at that time a German colony. It was felt that the training of their Sister co-workers could best be accomplished in Ger-

many. Consequently, a group of volunteers branched off from the Italian Community in 1895, to make a foundation on German soil, henceforth to be known as the Society of the Pallottine Missionary Sisters.

Although the primary aim of the Congregation is the sanctification of members, its secondary aim is untiring labor for souls in the spirit of Blessed Vincent Pallotti, whose motto was: "The love of Christ impels us."

With the Generalate at Limburg-Lahn, Germany, the Congregation labors today in the United States, England, Poland, Switzerland, South Africa and Central America.

In the Diocese of Joliet the Sisters give catechetical instructions to Catholic students attending public schools in the following parishes: Ashkum, Cabery, Clifton, Crescent City, Gilman, L'Erable, Martinton and Watseka. Their headquarters are at Ashkum.





## SACRED HEART CONVENT LISLE

With three "borrowed" Sisters and three "almighty" dollars Sister M. Nepomucene Jaeger, O.S.B., on leave from St. Mary's Convent in Pittsburgh, Penn., formed the nucleus of the Sacred Heart Convent in Chicago in 1895. Within a month and a half, they had purchased and established themselves in the old St. Pius School and Convent.

By 1909, the Community had met the requirements for becoming an independent Motherhouse and Sister Nepomucene became the first Prioress. Her immediate concern was transferring the Motherhouse to their new Convent in Lisle which was completed in 1913.

When Mother Nepomucene resigned in 1918, the community numbered ninety-eight Sisters, four novices and five postulants; they staffed seven schools including Assumption School in Omaha, Nebraska, St. Joseph's Orphanage in Lisle, and the cooking department at St. Procopius Abbey.

Mother Nepomucene's brother, Rt. Rev. Nepomucene Jaeger, was the first Abbot of St. Procopius.

During the rule of Sister M. Genevieve Biskup, the

second Prioress, St. Benedict's Home for the Aged in Chicago and four new schools were staffed, one of them being St. Thomas in Fort Worth, Texas. Her outstanding project was the establishment of the Sacred Heart Academy in 1926 as a boarding or day school for girls of high school age.

The present Prioress Sister M. Aemilia, O.S.B., succeeded Mother Genevieve in 1949, and realizing it was necessary to branch out for new vitality, she opened the Jaeger Junior College in 1949. Then two years later in answer to the pleading of the Slovak people for Sisters of their own descent she established a daughter-branch, Our Lady of Sorrows Convent in Tinley Park. And on December 8, 1954, Mother Aemilia announced the opening of a Benedictine Convent of the Eastern Rite in Warren, Ohio.

Today, in its sixtieth year, Sacred Heart Convent has grown to 170 professed Sisters. In the Diocese of Joliet the Lisle Sisters function in seven places including the two parochial schools of St. Joan of Arc in Lisle and SS. Cyril and Methodius in Joliet.



## ST. PATRICK ACADEMY MOMENCE

The little town of Momence, named after a Potawatomi Indian chief, is the home of St. Patrick's Academy. In 1906, the cornerstone was laid, and one year later, the school was ready for occupancy. The apostolic Sister Servants of the Holy Heart of Mary were requested to staff this new institution.

In the days of fierce campaigning between "wet" and "dry" political candidates in the Chicago area, these nuns, already known for their zeal and devotion to duty, began their labors. They began full of hope and trust in the great missionary patron of the Academy, St. Patrick.

Through all the early days they watched the little school grow, nourished by the many sacrifices of friends and the parishioners of St. Patrick's. In the anniversary year of their first decade, 1917, the United States entered the Great War. Although in many parts of the country, this conflict changed the placid pattern of every day life into one of turmoil

and separations, the Sisters at Momence continued their unperturbed care of Christ's little ones.

St. Patrick's Academy is a boarding school for girls in both high school and elementary grades. Young boys, from ages six to twelve are also accepted.

The High School Department curriculum consists of Business Education, Home-Making, and Physical Education courses designed to give the young women competency in professional as well as domestic life. It also features College Preparatory Courses. The entire curriculum is firmly based on the principles of Christian social living.

Besides providing for the spiritual and mental health of its charges, St. Patrick's Academy is also equipped with a large gymnasium, spacious campus, and adequate playground facilities to develop their physical health.

Villa Marie, a residence for little girls in grades one and two, is also located on the campus.





## ST. MARY'S HOSPITAL KANKAKEE

The Reverend Ambrose D. Granger, pastor of St. Rose parish, was God's instrument in making possible the first hospital in Kankakee. The Sisters, Servants of the Holy Heart of Mary with Provincial Houses at Beaverville, were chosen to minister unto Christ's suffering members. On Dedication Day, March 28, 1897, "Emergency Hospital" had 11 beds; today St. Mary's General Hospital has 186 beds and 40 bassinets to serve an urban-rural community within a radius of 35 miles. During its first year, 85 patients were cared for as compared with 15,452 in 1954. Of these, 1893 were new-borns.

This growth took vision, courage, perseverance on the part of Mother St. Claire, Administrator, who secured an entire block for the master plan and supervised the expansion of the hospital and the erection of a nurses' school and residence, an auditorium, and a convent.

St. Mary's Hospital is fully approved by the Joint

Accreditation Commission, with a staff of close to a hundred qualified physicians, surgeons, and dentists, a pathologist and a radiologist. Dr. Edwin Hamilton, staff president, was elected to the ten-man Board of Directors of the World Medical Association at its 1954 meeting in Rome, Italy.

St. Mary's Hospital and its School of Nursing are greatly aided by two remarkably effective organizations, St. Mary's Hospital Woman's Auxiliary and the Kankakee County Medical Auxiliary.

The 14 bed wing adjacent to the hospital chapel forms the Sisters' infirmary, where a P.A. system enables the bedridden to follow all religious services. In the convent chapel, the aged sisters keep vigil before the Blessed Sacrament. These twofold antennae of prayer and suffering lift arms heavenward in behalf of the needs of the Diocese and the Congregation.

Reverend Stanley Swikowski, C.V.S., is chaplain.



## **ST. MARY'S SCHOOL OF NURSING KANKAKEE**

Approval by the Illinois State Department of Registration and Education, February 1, 1922, inaugurated the formal opening of St. Mary Hospital School of Nursing. In 1952 it was listed among the first schools of nursing to receive temporary accreditation with the National Accreditation League.

St. Mary Hospital School of Nursing, 145 South Fourth Avenue, has a Diploma Program including a twelve-week affiliation in Psychiatric Nursing at Mercyville, Aurora, Illinois. It aims to set before the students sound principles of morality which will guide them, make them conscious of the sacred trust of the nursing profession, and arouse in them the desire to minister to the sick in the spirit of true Christ-like charity.

The curriculum combines formal classroom instruction with an integrated clinical program consisting of demonstrations, conferences, and ward classes by a qualified staff of full and part time instructors. Special lectures are given by members of the medical staff in their respective fields.

Besides the 108 private rooms for the students, the new five-story school of nursing is comprised of classrooms, four modernly equipped laboratories, lounges, offices, a library, a chapel, and an adjoining all-purpose auditorium.

The St. Mary Alumnae and the local chapter of the National Council of Catholic Nurses are vitally interested in St. Mary Hospital School of Nursing. At present the Alumnae Association is sponsoring a loan fund for four students.

The Kankakee County Medical Auxiliary offers valuable assistance also by way of scholarships, recruitment, and social activities.

The first class of student nurses numbered 8 as compared with the 36 pre-clinicals of September 1954. Incidentally, it is interesting to note that a member of the first graduating class, Mrs. James P. Rigoni—nee: Anna B. Mitchell—is the proud mother of student-nurse, Miss Jean Ann Rigoni, who will graduate in June 1955.





## **OUR LADY ACADEMY MANTENO**

In 1907, just two years before the ten-hour work day for women was granted by the Illinois General Assembly, another group of women, dedicated to serving God and who set no limits on the time spent serving Him and their fellow citizens, came to Manteno, Illinois. These self-sacrificing women, the Sister Servants of the Holy Heart of Mary, had come at the request of Father O. A. Bourdeau to start a Catholic school in St. Joseph's Parish in Manteno. Accepting this obligation meant the building and maintenance of a boarding school to which day pupils would also be admitted. But these Sisters, unhesitating in their trust in Mary's omnipotence of intercession, accepted the task.

Through all the privations necessitated by the First World War, through the countless financial crises that blossomed out during the Depression, and then through yet another war, these Sisters have watched Our Lady Academy grow and mature.

Today the course of study includes a co-educational elementary school and a four year high school for girls. Home making and commercial subjects prepare pupils for life, while academic subjects make possible their attendance at institutions of higher learning. Moreover, the Academy offers additional advantages in music, both voice and instrumental, and dramatics. Our Lady Academy is fully recognized by the State Department of Education. The whole course of study is permeated with Christian principles to foster Christ-like living in meeting the challenges of everyday life.

Catechetical teaching on Sundays and weekends to public school children at Wilton Center and Peotone extend the influence of the school.

Thus with the love, labors, and prayers of forty-eight years behind them, the Sisters, students, and friends of Our Lady Academy look forward to years glowing with future successes for Christ.

*Sisters at St. Anthony's  
Church, Joliet*

*Front, L. to R., Sister Mary Benjamin,  
Superior Sister Mary Rose; Rear, L. to  
R., Sister Mary Addolorato, Sister  
Mary Veronica*



## MANTELLATE SISTERS, SERVANTS OF MARY BLUE ISLAND

The Congregation of Mantellate Sisters Servants of Mary, originated in Italy, having as its foundress St. Juliana Falconieri and functioning under the jurisdiction of the Holy See.

It spread throughout the regions of Italy and diffused itself in the far mission fields of Swaziland, South Africa, United States and Spain. The Congregation was founded in 1916 in the United States.

At present it is engaged in teaching and social work in the Archdiocese of Chicago and the Dioceses of Joliet, Rockford, and Fort Wayne.

**Purpose and Requirements:** Besides aiming at self-sanctification through the observance of the three vows, the congregation has the beautiful and holy mission of compassionating and spreading devotion to the sorrows of Mary. Cooperating in the salvation of souls is done primarily through works of charity, the care and education of children in boarding and parochial schools, day nurseries, and social and catechetical work.

Candidates are received between the age of 15 and 30. Admission of those over 30 is left to the judgment of the superior general.

Following a two-year novitiate, temporary vows are made annually for a period of five years, after which perpetual vows are pronounced.

The Motherhouse is located at Mother of Sorrows Convent and Novitiate, 13811 S. Western Avenue, Blue Island, Illinois.

At St. Anthony's parish in Joliet where the parish church is in the midst of the business section, the downtown district, the Sisters gather the children to teach them the fundamentals of the faith and prepare them for the reception of the sacraments. Thru the regular visits to the homes of the people, when taking a census, great spiritual work is also accomplished with the adults.

"How often would I have gathered together thy children, as the hen doth gather her chickens under her wings, and thou wouldst not?" are Our Blessed Saviour's words of denunciation to the people of Jerusalem. When the Mantellates arrive however on a scene, these words are changed to another sentence in Holy writ: "And thy brought unto him little children, that he should touch them . . . and he took them in his arms, and blessed them, laying his hands upon them." Mark X 13-16.





## DOMINICAN SISTERS SPRINGFIELD

Over four-score years ago at the invitation of His Excellency, Most Reverend P. J. Baltes, Bishop of Alton, six generous and devoted Dominican Sisters came from their Motherhouse at St. Catherine's near Springfield, Kentucky, to assume charge of St. Rose School in Jacksonville, Illinois. Later the Bishop, desiring to establish an independent Dominican Motherhouse within his diocese, arranged with the religious superiors at St. Catherine's to make the small community at Jacksonville a separate foundation. After twenty years of growth, the young Community moved to Springfield, a more easily accessible and rapidly developing city. Here they founded Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Convent, Motherhouse of the Springfield Dominicans. Soon the Sisters established in the same city Sacred Heart Academy, a high school for resident and day students.

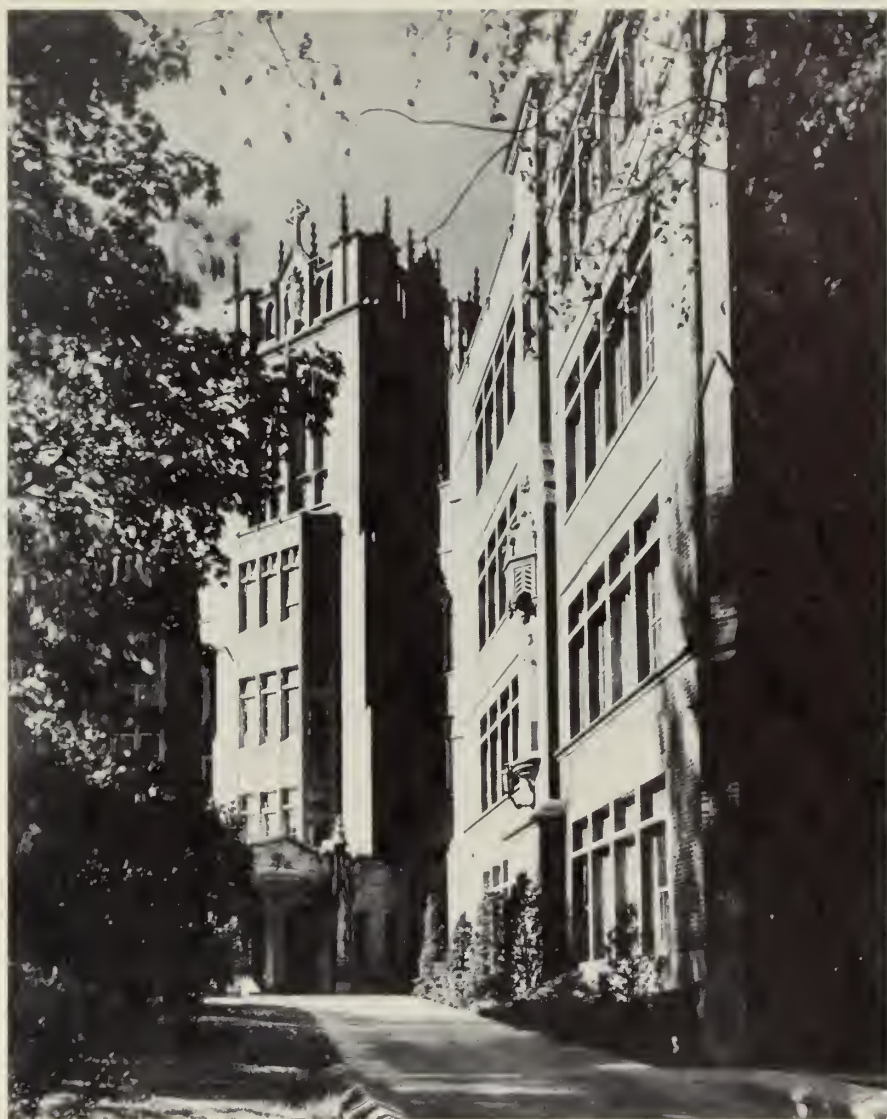
At present the Community, numbering well over 500 members, staffs more than sixty schools located in the archdioceses of Chicago, Denver, and Detroit; and in the dioceses of Belleville, Joliet, Peoria, Rock-

ford, and Springfield, in Illinois; Duluth, Minnesota, and San Diego, California. Within the past two years under the direction of His Excellency, the Most Reverend William A. O'Connor, D.D., fifteen catechetical centers have been opened in the Springfield Diocese in which Catholic students attending public grade and high schools are receiving religious instruction. Besides engaging in the field of education, the Sisters staff a convalescent home in Denver, and modern, excellently-equipped hospitals in Wellington, Texas; Rogers, Arkansas; and Jackson, Mississippi. With the last named hospital, there is a fully-accredited training school for nurses.

In the Joliet Diocese, the Dominican Sisters conduct three elementary schools in Irwin, St. Anne, and Bradley; and in Bourbonnais, they operate the Alfred Fortin Villa, a home for children.

As in other dioceses, the people of Joliet are most appreciative of the good training that their children are receiving from the establishments staffed by the Dominican Sisters.

## COLLEGE OF ST. FRANCIS JOLIET



The College of St. Francis has a unique position, that of being the only Catholic college for women in the Joliet Diocese. Offering a four-year liberal arts course for women, the College stands as the peak of the scholastic endeavors of the Sisters of St. Francis of Mary Immaculate.

The college grants the degrees of Bachelor of Arts, Bachelor of Science and Bachelor of Music. It is accredited by the North Central Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools, the Catholic University of America and the University of Illinois.

It was as a junior college that this institution opened its doors to the public in 1925. With four lay students and a faculty dauntless and able, Assisi Junior College began its first year. Its rapid but solid growth helped to bring to fruition the seventy year old dream of the Congregation, a senior college, which began to operate under the title of The College of St. Francis in 1930.

The College of St. Francis aims to give all its students a Catholic Liberal Arts Education, which means it offers an academic program integrated with religion and philosophy. This is exemplified in the Franciscan spirit in the teaching of its faculty, which is to instill in the students a desire for knowledge for the sake of charity.

After graduation, the students are ready to face the moral responsibilities of a professional career and to undertake the task of giving earnest, faithful and loving service to their community, their Church and their family.

The College feels it is called upon to exert a continued effort to give to its Diocese women who, in their civic, Church, and home life, will fulfill their God-given role of being preservers, promoters and transmitters of the best in Christian culture—Women with the *will* to love and sacrifice.





## **ALFRED FORTIN VILLA BOURBONNAIS**

The Alfred Fortin Villa is a new home for children, opened in 1954 by the Sisters of St. Dominic. The Sisters of St. Dominic have their motherhouse in Springfield, Illinois, the State Capital, where they were established in 1873. They are well known for their work in the Chicago Archdiocese.

The Villa is located on State Highway 45 in Bourbonnais. The building itself is a beautiful three-story structure, entirely modern in design, and is situated on a fifty-four acre tract. The home has facilities for the care and training of thirty-six boys and girls.

This inspiring home was made possible by the last will and testament of Alfred Fortin, whose name the home bears. Alfred Fortin, a native of Bourbonnais, died in 1937. But it was not until a number of years had passed that his will could be carried out. Although litigation over the will may have cost many

years the building now stands a lasting memorial to Alfred Fortin.

On St. Joseph's Feast day, March 19, 1954, the Sisters welcomed the first boys and girls to their new home at the Villa. It was a memorable day, one which the devoted Sisters will find hard to forget.

Countless people of the Kankakee area have already made a place for the Villa in their hearts. They had generously and willingly contributed funds to provide for the furnishings of the building and for its maintenance.

The Rev. Walter J. Surprenant, C.S.V., is the present chaplain at the Alfred Fortin Villa, providing for the spiritual progress of both Sisters and children. Father Surprenant is also pastor of the Maternity of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish in Bourbonnais.

Novitiate



## THE CONGREGATION OF FRANCISCAN SISTERS WHEATON

The Congregation of Franciscan Sisters, Daughters of the Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary, was founded in Westphalia, Germany in 1859, by Mother Mary Clara Pfaender. It was approved by the Bishop of that diocese in 1860. The Congregation follows the Rule of the Third Order of St. Francis of Assisi and the established Constitutions, all of which have been approved by the Holy See. The members of the Congregation of Franciscan Sisters take the simple vows of Poverty, Chastity and Obedience. The entire Congregation numbers approximately 2,500 members in its four provinces. The provinces are located in Germany, Holland, France and the United States of America. The St. Clara Province, which is that located in the United States, has an estimated 444 members. In 1872, a number of the members of this congregation arrived in the United States and settled in the very heart of the country, St. Louis, Mis-

souri. It was then that they established their provincial Motherhouse and Novitiate. It was in July of 1947 that the decision to transfer the Provincial Motherhouse and Novitiate to Wheaton was made. The construction of a new Motherhouse, Chapel and also Novitiate building, now under way, is expected to be completed by July, 1955.

The purpose of the foundation of the Congregation of Franciscan Sisters, Daughters of the Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary, is to promote the personal sanctification of the individual members by means of a common life of prayer and works of mercy. The Franciscan Sisters care for the sick in hospitals and, to some extent, in private homes. They teach in the fields of nursing education, in parish schools and also in orphanages. In addition to these activities they also conduct homes for orphans and for working girls.





HOLY NAME



**diocesan**



**institutions**









## CATHOLIC RURAL LIFE CONFERENCE

### BISHOP'S RESETTLEMENT COMMITTEE

"God gave man the earth for his cultivation as the most beautiful and honorable occupation in the natural order" says Pope Pius XII. Our diocese of Joliet is rural and agricultural as well as urban and industrial. Hence it is only natural that His Excellency Bishop McNamara immediately organized and established the Rural Life Conference and appointed the Very Rev. Msgr. Vincent J. Cloos as Diocesan Director.

The importance of the farmer in the national economy is universally recognized. The farm situation is a subject of constant study by national, state and local authorities. The farmer and his problems are one of the most important concerns of the Church. As a devoted Mother, she has a very special duty in this field. The land the farmer works is God's earth; the harvest produced by his labor are God's fruits. No one comes so close to nature as the farmer, and nature is ruled by laws implanted by God.

Rural Suburban projects have occupied much study and time of Rural Life Conferences. Rural homesteading is constantly encouraged — the blessing for large families to live on land, with plenty of fresh air, light and space. Many breadwinners today can now live in the country within reasonable commuting distance from office and factory. The rural bus program enables the children to attain a complete education. In addition there are the beautiful dawns and twilights, the vast skies by night revealing a galaxy of stars, exercise in the open and dustless air in the midst of the glories of God's creation. What a blessing for the nation the rapid

multiplication of such homesteads would be! Families with "Christ to the Country . . . and the Country to Christ" is a major project of the Catholic Rural Life Conference.

Centennial Homesteaders! To encourage families to remain on the old homestead, the Diocesan Rural Life confers an Award Certificate to every Catholic family residing on a homestead which has been in the family for a century or more. The Diocesan Director, the Very Rev. Msgr. Vincent J. Cloos, Winfield, Illinois will be happy to hear from any old homesteaders in order that this honor of receiving the Award Certificate may be conferred.

In many cases it is not a far cry from Rural Life to the Bishop's Resettlement Committee, because very often the immigrant is a farmer. Under the U. S. Refugee Relief Program, authorized by emergency legislation, 214,000 aliens may become permanent residents of the United States through Dec. 31, 1956, in addition to others who may enter under the regular immigration laws. With such numbers of immigrants and refugees coming to our shores, the Church ever watchful for the spiritual care and material welfare of her children, has organized The Bishop's Resettlement Committee. Americans are given the opportunity to help others to new lives in our blessed United States. The filing of petitions to sponsor the entry of any person may be done through the Diocesan Resettlement Director, Monsignor Cloos of Winfield, Illinois.

"The Peace of Christ in the Kingdom of Christ."





## CATHOLIC YOUTH ORGANIZATION

The Catholic Youth Organization, more familiarly known as the CYO, provides programs of a spiritual, educational, and recreational nature for boys and girls of all ages and from all parishes.

In Joliet the formation of the CYO came in response to the need of organization work for youth brought about not only by the lack of recreational programs in general but also by that particular period of economic unrest called the "depression." For it was during the "depression," after the steel companies closed the Steel Club, an organization which will be remembered by many old-timers in Joliet, that the CYO had its incipency here.

In November of 1931 a meeting in St. Mary's Hall downtown resulted in the formation of a basketball

league. The response to this initial endeavor was so overwhelming that a league for girls was formed. And later in the same month the boxing tournaments were arranged.

Towards the end of that first basketball season a club to sponsor social and recreational activities for the young people of Joliet was formed. The program for this group included dances, one act plays, minstrel shows, other musical comedies, card parties, fashion shows, the sponsoring of their own orchestra and other worthwhile activities.

The first club house was part of the old Chamber of Commerce building. Later the CYO moved to South Bluff St. then to 559 N. Chicago St. in September of 1949 and finally in June of 1950 to 117



*Rev. Thomas B. O'Keefe,  
Director*

Pleasant St. the present CYO Center. Through its many moves the CYO has grown from its small beginnings until today over 200 teams participate in the sports program (basketball, baseball, soccer etc.) and over 1300 boys and girls enjoy the benefits of CYO Summer School.

Through the years various phases of the CYO program have been fostered and encouraged by members of the local clergy. Laymen too, have been generous with their time in assisting the CYO program. The late "Packey" McFarland, Martin Gleason, Emmet McGuire, Francis Parker and John Ochs were only a few who were active in the beginning program. Deno Menozzi and others carry on the program today.

The Rev. E. Boyle of St. Mary's the first director of the Joliet CYO was succeeded after four and one half years by members of the Carmelite Order who turned the position over to the late Rev. Joseph Reilly. Father Reilly left Joliet in 1948 and the job of Director of the Joliet CYO was inherited by the Rev. Thomas B. O'Keefe, appointed by Bishop Sheil, and since the creation of the Joliet diocese, by His Excellency, Bishop McNamara. The transition period from one diocese to another was masterfully handled by Father O'Keefe.

In all the counties throughout the diocese the CYO is very active, but in Will County where supervision is directly under Father O'Keefe, the CYO is the largest Athletic Association in the County.





*Mt. Olivet Cemetery*

## DIOCESAN CEMETERIES

The history of Catholic Cemeteries in the Joliet area closely parallels the history of the original Diocese of Chicago. In 1838, six years before the creation of the Diocese of Chicago, Father Francis Plunket, assigned as pastor and missionary to the Joliet region, founded St. Patrick's parish and began, with his flock, the construction of the parish church. In 1849, Bishop James Van De Velde, second Ordinary of Chicago, received of John Belz of Joliet, a deed to the land now comprising St. Patrick's Cemetery, to be used "as a Burial Ground for the Catholic population of Joliet in Will County and its vicinity." From its very beginning then, St. Patrick's Cemetery has been a "Diocesan" Cemetery.

This was not the case with other cemeteries that are now under the jurisdiction of the Diocese, as such. Mt. Olivet Cemetery was formerly the parish cemetery for St. Mary's founded in 1868. Though records indicate the purchase of the first parcel of land for Mt. Olivet Cemetery did not take place till 1887, the first burial there seems to have taken place

in 1863. Subsequent purchases of land were made as needed. In 1934, the Archdiocese of Chicago was asked to undertake the administration of Mt. Olivet Cemetery, by which fact it then became officially a Diocesan Cemetery.

Shortly after the creation of the Diocese of Joliet in 1948, St. Patrick's and Mt. Olivet cemeteries became the nucleus for a new system of diocesan cemeteries under the direction of the Rev. A. Sinsky. Several new cemeteries are being planned — land for two such has been purchased: one on Rt. 66A, seven miles North of Joliet, intended to serve Joliet and the Lockport Township area, the other on Finley Rd. in DuPage County to serve the suburban area radiating from Lombard.

A unique feature of this Diocesan Cemetery plan is the "Central Labor Pool" by which a basic crew operating from Mt. Olivet Cemetery in Joliet is able to serve not only the official diocesan cemeteries, but also provide basic services in the following parish cemeteries:

SS. Cyril & Methodius, St. Patrick's, St. Mary's



*Mt. Olivet Cemetery*

Nativity, SS. Peter and Paul, Naperville, St. Mary's, Minooka, and Mt. Olivet in Braidwood.

#### NECROLOGY

Tho Joliet diocese is so young, it has pleased God to call the following workers from the vineyard:

Very Rev. Peter Egan, V.F. — Immaculate Conception Church, Gilman.

Rev. William Granger — St. James Church, Irwin.

Rt. Rev. Msgr. Raymond Bernau—St. Joseph Church, Bradley.

Rev. Henry Puetz — St. John the Baptist Church, Winfield.

Rev. Robert Fagan — Convent of Our Lady of Retreat in the Cenacle, Warrenville.

Rev. Edward Schuster — St. Thaddeus Church, Joliet.

Rev. F. C. Scieszka — St. Stanislaus Church, Kankakee.

Rev. Henry Kennedy — St. Alexander Church, Villa Park.

Rev. Neal O'Connor, O.Carm. — St. Mary Church, Joliet.

Rev. Aloysius Bandola, O.Carm. — Community of St. Elias, Joliet.

Rev. Joseph Forst, O.F.M. — St. Francis Retreat House, Hinsdale.

Brother James Yucevicz, O.F.M. — St. Joseph's Seminary, Hinsdale.

Brother Vincent Clark, O.Carm. — Community of St. Elias, Joliet.

St. Procopius Abbey

Rev. Bartholomew Kvitek, O.S.B. — Rev. Leonard Gerl, O.S.B. — Rev. Anthony Nouza, O.S.B. — Rev.

Norbert Lukes, O.S.B. — Rev. Cyril Zenisek, O.S.B. — Bro. Maurus Stejskal, O.S.B. — Bro.

Rudolph Kec, O.S.B. — Bro.Vojtech Zikmund, O.S.B.

Bro. Gabriel Kandzer, O.S.B.

"Remember, O Lord, Thy servants and handmaids, who have gone before us with the sign of faith, and sleep the sleep of peace."





*Rev. Thomas J. Holbrook,  
Director*

## CATHOLIC CHARITIES

The Catholic Charities of the diocese of Joliet was established in 1949, but actually its history goes back to 1918, since it functioned for many years as part of the Catholic Charities of Chicago.

Joliet's charity program, under the sponsorship of Bishop Martin D. McNamara, is well equipped to care for the needy Catholics of the diocese. Last year your Catholic Charities assisted approximately 1,400 children and adults.

Rev. Thomas J. Holbrook, director, has declared that services to children constitute the largest part of Joliet's extensive charitable work. In 1954 almost one thousand children received care or assistance.

There were 250 children in adoptive or foster homes, and 125 in child-care homes other than Guardian Angel Home. Guardian Angel cared for 135 boys and girls.

In addition, Catholic Charities provided special assistance for 430 children living in their own homes. This included clothing and medical, dental, psychiatric and psychological aid.

The Family Care Department also was very active

last year. Emergency financial aid or assistance with other problems was extended to 360 families. Help also was given in seventy-five cases involving maternity or old age.

The charitable program of the diocese is administered through three offices located in Joliet, Kankakee and Wheaton.

The Joliet office is located at 19 East Jefferson Street and serves the Catholics of Will and Grundy counties. It is staffed by Kathleen Jehle Orenic and Eleanor Jehle Kelly, social workers, and Shirley Schauland, office manager.

Offices in Kankakee and Wheaton follow a similar pattern of organization. The Kankakee office is in the Arcade building. Its staff includes Mary M. Taylor, executive secretary; Julianne Suprenant, social worker, and Lorraine Morrical, office manager. This office covers Kankakee, Iroquois and Ford counties.

The Wheaton office, at 100 North Hale Street, serves the area of DuPage and Kendall counties. Our Wheaton social workers are Marilyn Lenertz and Suzanne Parr. Clare G. Grant is the office manager.



*Very Rev. Msgr. Joseph A. Wagner,  
Director*



## CATHOLIC MISSION OFFICE

Christ died for all men, and He founded His Church to teach all men the way of salvation. Upon the frail shoulders of our Holy Father rests the supreme responsibility for fulfilling this command of Christ. To enable all Catholics to help in this mission campaign for souls, the Pope asks them to enroll as members of the Pontifical Society for the Propagation of the Faith.

Consequently, one of the very first actions of Bishop McNamara was to establish the Society and to appoint Very Rev. Msgr. Joseph A. Wagner as diocesan director. Even though the problems of a new diocese are staggering, Bishop McNamara knew that God would solve these local problems if the diocese helped the missionaries in foreign and home mission fields.

Priests and people have responded with characteristic generosity. From the first, reports of the Mission Office show a remarkable mission-minded spirit. In its first five years, Joliet contributed to the missions a total of \$369,253.19, a figure which ranks the diocese as seventh per capita out of 131 dioceses and archdioceses in the country.

Supplementary to the senior Society, which enrolls adults and children over twelve, is the Pontifical Association of the Holy Childhood, which enrolls all under twelve. Adopting pagan babies, selling Christmas seals, and in other ways, this organization of Catholic youth in the diocese has contributed the magnificent sum of \$38,931.40.

A third means, the Mission Cooperation Plan, established to aid individual missionary societies, has contributed \$44,343.51 to this cause.

In its five years of existence, the Catholic Missions Office has arranged mission pageants and mission poster contests, has introduced the Missionary Union of the Clergy into seminaries of the diocese, has established a rental library of films of mission lands, and has invited Bishop Sheen, national director of the Society, to speak to all teachers of the diocese.

Thanks to the encouragement of Bishop McNamara, the cooperation of the priests and sisters, and the support of the laity, the Missions Office looks forward to even greater success for the spread of God's Kingdom throughout the world.





*Supervisors' Meeting*

*Catholic School Board*



## CATHOLIC SCHOOL OFFICE, ROSELLE

On March 18, 1949, the day after his installation, Bishop McNamara celebrated Pontifical Mass at St. Raymond Cathedral for the teachers of the Joliet Diocese. Thus did he emphasize his personal conviction of the importance of Catholic education in moulding the citizens and saints of tomorrow.

Three months later, June 7, 1949, Bishop McNamara chose Very Rev. Msgr. Joseph A. Wagner as Superintendent of Schools. In January of 1951, His Excellency appointed a Diocesan School Board with Rt. Rev. Msgr. William J. Plunkett as chairman, and Monsignor Wagner as executive secretary.

In its first report, the School Office listed 49 grammar schools with a registration of 11,641 pupils. The high schools numbered 14, with 2,483 registered; and the colleges had 704 students enrolled. By contrast, the figures for September of 1954 show 59 grammar schools, with 18,351 pupils; 13 high schools, with 3,105 students; and 11 colleges and seminaries, with 1,722 students. To accommodate this increase, 10 new grammar schools and additions to previous facilities have been built by pastors of the diocese.

The diocese has a modern system of report cards and eight-year summaries for every grammar school student. The student competes, not only with other

students in his class, but with his own potentialities and capabilities.

Meetings are held every year just before school opens, for all supervisors, principals, and teachers in the diocese. Major speakers have included Bishop Fulton J. Sheen in 1952, Monsignor Goebel, Milwaukee Superintendent of Schools in 1953, and a panel of experts in speech therapy, 1954. Bishop McNamara has attended every meeting and addressed the group on each occasion.

Pupils in diocesan schools contribute largely each year to the missions and to the subscription campaign for the "New World." The School Office cooperates constantly with the various health agencies of Du Page, Will and Kendall Counties in bettering physical welfare, and it has presented awards to school patrol leaders for their diligence in protecting lives of their charges.

Progress in our schools has been possible only through the constant encouragement of Bishop McNamara, the cooperation of pastors, the sacrifices of religious priests, Sisters, Brothers, and lay teachers, and the support of loyal lay Catholics. We know that God will bless them abundantly for their efforts in behalf of our Catholic schools.



## JOLIET GRAMMAR SCHOOL BAND

After several attempts, the Joliet Catholic Grammar School Band was organized in 1951 by Mr. John Ventura, assisted by Sister M. Cecilia, O.S.F. It was approved by Very Rev. Msgr. Joseph Wagner, Superintendent of the Diocesan School Board.

A rehearsal was held with 60 boys attending on February 25, 1952, and the first appearance of the band took place in April of the same year. In an hour concert, the band members played before their rightly proud parents in St. Mary's Nativity Parish Hall. It was through the generosity of the parents that the instruments and uniforms were purchased for all of the band members.

On Dec. 21, 1952, the band made its first public concert appearance. This was the First Annual Christmas Concert and was held in the Joliet Catholic High School Gymnasium. The First Annual Spring Con-

cert was held on May 24, 1953, and in it the Second Band was introduced to the public.

At present there are three bands: a Concert Band, consisting of 68 boys and 2 girl sponsors, a Second Band, consisting of 25 boys, and a Third Band consisting of 37 boys.

The following parishes are represented in the band program: St. Bernard, St. Cyril, St. John, St. Mary's Carmelite, St. Mary's Nativity, St. Patrick, St. Paul the Apostle, St. Raymond, St. Thaddeus, Holy Cross, and Sacred Heart. St. Joseph's Parish Band under the direction of Mr. Howard Strom, is the only individual parish band still in existence. At present the Joliet Catholic Grammar School Band is under the direction of Mr. Willard Burdeau, with the Reverend Aloysius Sinsky as Moderator.



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To

Our Bishop, His Excellency Martin D. McNamara, D.D.

Our Rt. Rev. Vicar General and Chancellor, Monsignor  
Blanchette, Monsignori, Priests, Brothers, Sisters and Business  
Friends

Sincerest Gratitude

For the immediate responsive and generous co-operation  
in the work of compiling and publishing

"The History of Joliet Diocese"

Rt. Rev. Msgr. Eugene J. Luke, Editor  
Rev. Edmund J. Gregory,  
Maryknoll Fathers and Seminarians,  
Associate Editors.

**1949**

- 1—Kankakee, St. Teresa Church and School
- 2—Mokena, St. Mary's Hall converted into School
- 3—Kankakee, St. Stanislaus Kindergarten
- 4—South Wilmington, St. Lawrence New Hall
- 5—Roselle, St. Walter's Church
- 6—Roselle, St. Walter's Rectory
- 7—New Lenox, St. Jude School and Church

**1950**

- 1—Wheaton, St. Michael's Addition to School
- 2—Joliet, St. Paul The Apostle Convent
- 3—Joliet, Peter Claver Center
- 4—Kankakee, St. Martin of Tours Rectory
- 5—Villa Park, St. Alexander Convent
- 6—Kankakee, Our Lady of Fatima Church
- 7—Kankakee, St. Rose Kindergarten
- Kankakee, St. Teresa Convent and Rectory

**1951**

- 1—Joliet, St. Paul The Apostle Church and School
- 2—Downers Grove, St. Joseph Convent
- 3—Glen Ellyn, New Convent
- 4—Kankakee, St. Martin of Tours Church and School
- 5—Kinsman, Remodeling of Sacred Heart Church
- 6—Joliet, St. Stephen Church
- 7—Verona, St. Joseph's Mission
- 8—Peotone, St. Paul's Church
- 9—Bourbonnais, Maternity of The Blessed Virgin Mary
- 10—Paxton, St. Mary's Parish Hall
- 11—Westmont, Holy Trinity School
- 12—Glen Ellyn, New Rectory
- Kankakee, Nurses' Home at St. Mary Hospital
- Mokena, St. Mary Convent
- Roselle, St. Walter's New Hall

**1952**

- 1—Joliet, St. Stephen Rectory
- 2—Elmhurst, Immaculate Conception Playing Field
- 3—Elmhurst, Immaculate Conception High School
- 4—Steger, St. Liborius New Convent
- 5—Watseka, St. Edmund Rectory
- 6—Kankakee, St. Patrick Rectory
- 7—Westmont, Holy Trinity Rectory
- 8—Hinsdale, St. Isaac Jogues New Church
- 9—Warrenville, St. Irene purchase of Convent
- Roselle, Remodeling of Hall into School
- West Chicago, Parish Hall

**1953**

- 1—Joliet, St. Mary Magdalene Rectory
- 2—Joliet, St. Paul The Apostle Rectory
- 3—Warrenville, St. Irene School
- 4—Joliet, St. Patrick Parish Hall (Marquette Hall)

- 5—Elmhurst, Visitation Rectory
- 6—Wood Dale, Holy Ghost addition to School
- 7—Joliet, St. Raymond Convent
- 8—Bensenville, St. Alexis New Rectory
- 9—Braidwood, Immaculate Conception New Hall
- Bourbonnais, Alfred Fortin Villa (orphanage)
- Lombard, Sacred Heart, addition to School
- Joliet, St. Paul Convent

**1954**

- 1—Downers Grove, St. Mary New School
- 2—Joliet, St. Anne Rectory
- 3—Bensenville, St. Alexis Convent
- 4—Lisle, St. Joan of Arc Convent
- 5—Joliet, Bishop's home
- 6—Lombard, Addition to Sacred Heart Convent
- 7—Joliet, Cathedral Rectory completed
- 8—Joliet, St. Mary Nativity Convent
- 9—Lockport, St. Joseph School
- 10—Joliet, St. Jude Church and School
- 11—Joliet, St. Mary Magdalene Convent purchased
- 12—Joliet, St. Thaddeus Convent addition, also addition to Rectory
- 13—Hinsdale, St. Isaac Jogues addition to School
- 14—Hinsdale, St. Isaac Jogues Convent
- 15—Oswego, St. Anne Church
- 16—Winfield, Casa Santa
- 17—Elmhurst, Visitation School
- 18—Clarendon Hills, Notre Dame Convent
- 19—Elmhurst, Visitation Church
- 20—Naperville, SS. Peter and Paul School addition
- 21—Hinsdale, St. Isaac Jogues Rectory
- 22—Joliet, St. Mary Magdalene Church and School
- 23—Westmont, Holy Trinity Convent
- 24—Joliet, Purchase and remodeling of Chancery Office Building
- Chebanse, New Rectory
- Coal City, Assumption School
- Lockport, Lewis College Chapel

**1955**

- 1—Clarendon Hills, Notre Dame Church, uc
- 2—Glen Ellyn, St. Petronille New Church, uc
- 3—Plainfield, St. Mary School, uc
- 4—Joliet, St. Raymond Gymnasium remodeling
- 5—Kankakee, St. Patrick Central High School, uc
- 6—Villa Park, St. Alexander's Church
- 7—Mokena, St. Mary Church and School, uc
- 8—Joliet, Catholic addition, uc
- 9—Joliet, St. Mary Nativity, addition to School and Gymnasium, uc
- Joliet, St. Francis Academy, uc
- West Chicago, New School, uc
- uc—under construction

## pictorial review

### buildings and construction

### 1949 to 1955





1949

1950







1951







# 1952





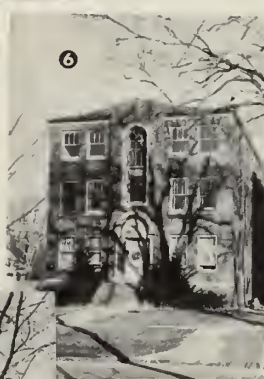


1953



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Chicago, Ill.





1954





# 1954

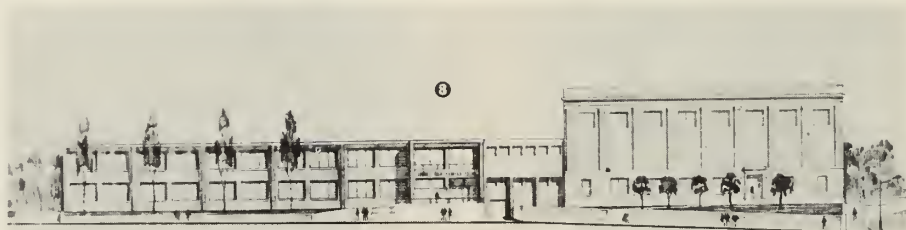
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# 1955













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